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[MAY 6, 1848.] VOL. 1071.]

THE ATHENÆUM

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LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 6, 1848.

REVIEWS

Letters addressed to the Countess of Ossory, from the Year 1769 to 1797. By Horace Walpole, Lord Orford. Now first printed from Original MSS. Edited, with Notes, by the Right Hon. R. Vernon Smith, M.P. 2 vols. Bentley.

When the "Queen of Hearts" (the great Lady of the loo-tables, over which the versatile antiquarian of Strawberry Hill consumed "his midnight oil,") married a second time,—when the fascinating Duchess of Grafton, so gaily sung and celebrated in his earlier letters, became Countess of Ossory,—a change seems naturally to have passed over the relations betwixt "the sovereign" and her subject. Instead of their punning in company *Pam* from country-house to country-house, or sharing with Lady Mary Coke (Walpole's "other sovereign") the liveliest omnibus opera-box that wit ever brightened and scandal made instructive, the incomparable Horace commenced a sort of gazette, for Lady Ossory's edification, in a series of letters. They are now given to the public for the first time, in number amounting to four hundred and more—specimens of genuine Strawberry-ware, ranging between the years 1769 and 1797. These are not the "merry May-days" when we can afford to make light of such a present.

In some of their characteristics, however, these letters may be thought to differ from most of those already published. Their writer piqued himself in his court-breeding; and therefore, when addressing a noble lady and a beauty, assumed a style more Grandisonian than that of his kind but bantering epistles to "holy Hannah" More of his affectionate and relation-like communications to Harry Conway's "Lady Ailesbury." Then, whereas The Duchess was so devoted to Lou as to neglect for its sake a great concert at Rome, and thus to escape being killed by the fall of a palace (as was recorded in a votive inscription thrown off by our Horace)—

Pammie O.M.

Capitolino

Ob Annam Ducissim de Grafton

Merito Incolumi.

—we recollect no special mention of her wit in the Walpole Letters. She seems to have been an eager playmate and a sweet-tempered friend rather than strong in philosophy like a Du Deffand or as rich in knowledge as a Montagu;—and, accordingly, to have been pried with fashionable and political gossip rather than with literary or antiquarian disquisition. The play-people figures in these Letters oftener than the picture-gallery or the printing-press,—the graver power of the moment is less elaborately treated than it was for the edification of Mann or Conway. Further, this series leads us more progressively and intimately than any former one through Walpole's last years,—and justifies his own frank confession that he carried his desire of growing old with grace and propriety almost to affection, and recurred to the losses and changes wrought by Time with an over-solicitude which tried to mask itself under the guise of self-knowledge. Hence a certain monotony may be remarked. But these niceties will be perceived only by fond students of the author;—and having stated them, the general reader will be best contented by the most liberal allowance of extract. There is small fear of our exhausting a collection so rich within any disposable limits.

How old all our freshest novelties are—is a remark which has been forced upon us again and again while plunging into this sea of gossip. We might console those who fancy that the

present crisis includes strange combinations, strong emotions and singular presentiments, such as never before have "perplexed" men and "monarchs" "with fear of change" by applying to the letter-writer before us James Montgomery's lines from "The Common Lot":—

He saw whatever thou hast seen,
Encountered all that troubles thee.

These epistles are full of comments on and coincidences with the events of our own strange times. But we will begin by tasting "the sack" first,—and enjoying the lively nonsense and important frivolity of our great grandfathers and grandmothers just as if *their* world had contained nought beside. And, as we are in the "season," we will open our notice by a ball, with all its ladies' dresses, chronicled for the Queen.—

"The house was all arbours and bowers, but rather more approaching to Calcutta, where so many English were stowed to death; for as the Queen would dis-maid of honour herself of Miss Vernon till after the Oratorio, the ball-room was not opened till she arrived, and we were penned together in the little hall till we could not breathe. The quadrilles were very pretty: Mrs. Damer, Lady Sefton, Lady Melbourne, and the Princess Czartoriski in blue satin with blond and collets montés à la reine Elizabeth; Lord Robert Spencer, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Lord Carlisle, and I forget whom, in like dresses with red sashes, drôuge, black hats with diamond loops and a few feathers before, began; then the Henri Quatres and Quatresses, who were Lady Craven, Miss Minching, the two Misses Vernons, Mr. Storer, Mr. Hanger, the Duc de Lauzun, and George Damer, all in white, the men with black hats and white feathers flapping behind, danced another quadrille, and then both quadrilles joined; after which Mrs. Hobart, all in gaze and spangles, like a spangle-pudding, a Miss I forget, Lord Edward Bentinck, and a Mr. Corbet, danced a pas de quatre, in which Mrs. Hobart indeed performed admirably. The fine Mrs. Matthews in white, trimmed down all the neck and petticoat with scarlet cock's feathers, appeared like a new macaw brought from Otaheite; but of all the pretty creatures next to the Carrara, who was not there, was Mrs. Bunbury; so that with her I was in love till one o'clock, and then came home to bed. The Duchess of Queensberry had a round gown of rose colour, with a man's cape, which, with the stomacher and sleeves, were all trimmed with mother-of-pearl earrings. This Pindaric gown was a sudden thought to surprise the duke, with whom she had dined in another dress. Did you ever see so good a joke?"

This dear Mrs. Hobart was a favourite butt with the Wit of Strawberry. She must have been an inveterate dancer. Her "old-fashioned *cotillon*" furnished him with the simile which points one of his best known passages regarding the grace of middle-age. Her agility, considering her great bulk—which led young Harry Conway to observe at Lord Stanley's ball "that he was sure she must be hollow,"—gives its point to another detail of a revel drawn up for Lady Ossory's benefit. Nay, so late as 1781 we find Horace hunting his old game on the occasion of a *jeu* given in her *Sans Souci*—"a hut on Ham Common, where she has built two huge rooms of timber under a cabbage."

Other ladies fare little better than Mrs. Hobart:—*vide* this peep at Nuneham, its guests and its hostess.—

"Nuneham astonished me with the first *coup d'œil* of its ugliness, and the next day charmed me. It is as rough as a bear, but capable of being made a most noble scene. There is a fine apartment, some few very good pictures, the part of a temple acted by a church, and a flower-garden that would keep all Maccaonians in nose-gays. The comfort was a little damped by the constant presence of Sir William Lee and Dame Elizabeth his wife, with a prim Miss, whose lips were stuffed into her nostrils. They sat bolt upright like macaws on their perches in a menagerie, and scarce said so much. I wanted to bid them *call a coach!* The morning and the evening was the first day, and

the morning and the evening was the second day, and still they were just in their places! I made a discovery that was more amusing: Lady Nuneham is a poetess, and writes with great ease and sense and some poetry, but is as afraid of the character as if it was a sin to make verses."

And here is a last hit at "Elia Lelia Chudleigh," which will amuse those who remember the inveteracy against the Duchess of Kingston displayed by Walpole in his former letters. The touch of *Mrs. Candour* in the prefatory compliment to Lady Ossory's charity is delicious.

"I am charmed with what you say, that much will be said that she does deserve, and more that she does not. One may always venture to bet that the world's ill-nature will outgo anybody's ill-deeds; and I am persuaded that Nero and Cesar Borgia will, as well as Richard III., come out much better characters at the Day of Judgment, and that the *pious* and *grave* will be the chief losers at that solemnity. I have not yet heard the Duke and Duchess's will. She moved to town with the pace of an interment, and made as many halts between Bath and London as Queen Eleanor's corpse. I hope for mercy she will not send for me to write verses on all the crosses she shall erect where she and the horses stopped to weep; but I am in a panic, for I hear my poor lines at Amphill are already in the papers. Her black crape veil, they say, contained a thousand more yards than that of Mouseline la Serieuse, and at one of the inns where her grief baited, she was in too great an agony to descend at the door, and was slung into a bow-window, as Mark Antony was into Cleopatra's monument."

Here we have done with the gallantry of this Squire of Dames, we cannot resist a characteristic "serving up" of Dr. Johnson's and "little Burney's" "Blue Queen" for the edification of the Lady of *real* fashion.—

"I forgot to tell your ladyship that I met Mrs. Montague t'other night at a visit. She said she had been alone the whole preceding day, *quite hermatically sealed*—I was very glad she was uncorked, or I might have missed that piece of learned nonsense! " "I was much diverted with your setting Mrs. Montague on her head, which indeed she does herself without the help of Hermes. She is one of my principal entertainments at Mrs. Vesey's, who collects all the graduates and candidates for fame, where they vie with one another, till they are as unintelligible as the good folks at Babel."

Every one has heard of the *étourderie* of poor Mrs. Vesey, the deaf Lady in Clarges Street who adds a house open for persons of wit, taste and letters—and seems to have been laughed at by all of them.—Here is one more anecdote:—

"Now I am sending coals to Ireland, I must add an excellent story I was told at the same place. That Lilliputian, Lady Newhaven, arriving at Tunbridge, desired Mrs. Vesey to explain to her and instruct her in the customs and news of the place. A man arrived ringing a bell—for what? said my lady, 'Oh!' replied Mrs. Vesey, 'to notify your arrival.' At that instant the man bawled out, 'At one o'clock, at Mr. Pinchbeck's great room, will be shown the surprising tall woman.'"

We are not sure that the following paragraph is in all its assumptions true; while we fancy that its sentiment rings nearly as hollow as Mrs. Hobart herself—being unable to forget that Walpole was flattering an amateur singer. But as a piece of neat and resonant panegyric it may match some of Johnson's happiest efforts;—and it furnishes a new quotation on a subject the stock praises of which have been worn despoiledly threadbare.—

"You will stare at a strange notion of mine: if it appears even a mad one do not wonder. Had I children, my utmost endeavours should be to breed them musicians. Considering I have no ear, nor ever thought of music, the preference seems odd; and yet it is embraced on frequent reflection. In short, madam, as my aim would be to make them happy, I think it the most probable method. It is a resource will last their lives, unless they grow

deaf; it depends on themselves, not on others; always amuses and soothes, if not consoles; and of all fashionable pleasures is the cheapest. It is capable of fame, without the danger of criticism; is susceptible of enthusiasm, without being priest-ridden; and unlike other mortal passions, is sure of being gratified even in Heaven."

Here we have done with "tiffany topics" we will give a scene from a court ball at Paris in 1775. Marie Antoinette has not often been more gracefully touched in pen and ink than as follows:

"Madame Clotilde was married on Monday morning, and at night was the banquet *royal*,—the finest sight *sur la terre*,—I believe, for I did not see it. I husband my pleasures and my person, and do not expose my wrinkles *au grand jour*. Last night I did limp to the *Bal Paré*, and as I am the hare with many real friends, was placed on the *banc des ambassadeurs*, just behind the royal family. It was in the theatre, the bravest in the universe; and yet taste predominates over expense. What I have to say, I can tell your ladyship in a word, for it was impossible to see anything but the Queen! Hebes and Floras, and Helens and Graces, are street-walkers to her. She is a statue of beauty, when standing or sitting; grace itself when she moves. She was dressed in silver, scattered over with laurierroses; few diamonds, and feathers, much lower than the monument. They say she does not dance in time, but then it is wrong to dance in time. Four years ago I thought her like an English Duchess, whose name I have forgotten for some years. Horrible! but the Queen has had the cestus since. * * There were but eight minuets, and, except the Queen and Princesses, only eight lady dancers. I was not so struck with the dancing as I expected, except with a *pas de deux* by the Marquis de Noailles and Madame Holstein. For beauty, I saw none, or the Queen effaced all the rest. After the minuets were French country dances, much encumbered by the long trains, longer tresses and hoops. As the weather was excessively sultry, I do not think the clothes, though of gauze and the lightest silks, had much taste. In the intervals of dancing, baskets of peaches, China oranges (a little out of season), biscuits, ices, and wine and water, were presented to the royal family and dancers. The ball lasted but just two hours. The monarch did not dance, but for the two first rounds of the minuets even the Queen does not turn her back to him; yet her behaviour is as easy as divine. * * On Saturday is to be acted, in the same great theatre at Versailles, the 'Comptable de Bourbon,' a new piece by Monsieur Guibert (author of the 'Tactique,') graciously indulged to the Queen, and not to be profaned, but there and at Fontainebleau, *car cela derogerait*; and, besides, his father is a *vieux militaire*, who would not condescend to hear his son's play read even to the Queen! The Prince de Beauvau is to place me, and there end the spectacles, for Monsieur Turgot is *économe*."

This play by M. Guibert is the piece the production of which is discussed as a life-and-death matter in the dismal, feverish, exhausting love letters of poor Madlle. d'Epinasse.

Let us now turn to more important matters and more stirring events. The reader of Walpole must have already been struck by the variety of matter handled in his letters. To one correspondent he described minutely the Ferrers trial and execution—to another, the fate of the treasonous Scotch noblemen of '45,—not forgetting my Lady Townshend's hysterical sympathy with the beheaded lords. In a third place we find all the *minutiae* of "Madame Charlotte's" arrival, and of George the Third's coronation, written "to the minute" as Harriet Byron hath it. In a fourth his gently sarcastic conversation with the professor of "the true frantic cestus," Hogarth, is complacently reported. But he rarely or never seems to have treated the same topic twice. Lady Ossory was favoured with the full account of the Gordon Riots. We shall extract it. Walpole's gazettes begin on the

6th of June, 1780; the first is dated from Strawberry Hill.—

"I know no more of Saint George Gordon, but that I would change his last name into Cordon, and baptize him with a halter. We have reports here of some continuance of riots, but of late I credit nothing till after two or three rebounds. All I gleaned more of the tumult on Friday was, that the Archbishop of York, who was above stairs in a committee, hearing of Lord Mansfield's danger, flew down, rushed through the crowd, and carried off his friend in Abraham's bosom. The Duke of Richmond told me this with great approbation. A Mr. Holroyd, a Member, told the Gordon that he ought to be sent to Bedlam, but that he himself would not quit him a moment, sat by him, followed him up into the gallery—and, in short, prevented his farther addresses to the mob. You ask about Mr. Selwyn: have you heard his incomparable reply to Lord George Gordon, who asked him if he would choose him again for Luggershall? He replied, 'his constituents would not.'—'Oh, yes, if you would recommend me, they would choose me if I came from the coast of Africa.'—That is according to what part of the coast you came from: they would certainly if you came from the Guinea Coast.' Now madam, is not this true inspiration as well as true wit? * *

"Wednesday, five o'clock, June 7, 1780.

"I am heartily glad I am come to town, though never was a less delicious place; but there was no bearing to remain philosophically in the country, and hear the thousand rumours of every hour, and not know whether one's friends and relations were not destroyed. Yesterday Newgate was burnt, and other houses, and Lord Sandwich near massacred. At Hyde Park Corner I saw guards at the Lord President's door, and in Piccadilly met George (Selwyn) and the Signorina, whom I wondered he ventured there. He came into my chaise in a fury, and told me Lord Mansfield's house is in ashes, and that 5000 men were marched to Kane Wood—it is true, and that 1000 of the Guards are gone after them. A camp of 10,000 is forming in Hyde Park as fast as possible, and the Berkshire Militia is just arrived. Wedderburne and Lord Stormont are threatened, and I do not know who. The Duchess of Beaufort sent an hour ago to tell me Lord Ashburnham had just advertised her that he is threatened, and was sending away his poor bed-ridden countess and children; and the duchess begged to know what I proposed to do. I immediately went to her, and quieted her, and assured her we are as safe as we can be anywhere, and a little obnoxious; but if she was alarmed, I advised her to remove to Notting Hill, where Lady Mary is absent. The Duchess said the mob were now in Savile Row; we sent thither, and so they are, round Colonel Woodford's who gave the Guards orders to fire at Lord Mansfield's, where six at least of the rioters were killed. The mob are now armed, having seized the stores in the Artillery Ground. If anything can surprise your ladyship, it will be what I am going to tell you. Lord George Gordon went to Buckingham House this morning, and asked an audience of the King. Can you be more surprised still?—he was refused. I must finish, for I am going about the town to learn, and see, and hear. Kane Wood is saved; a regiment on march met the rioters. It will probably be a black night: I am decking myself with blue ribands like a May-day garland. Horsemen are riding by with muskets. I am sorry I did not bring the armour of Francis I. to town, as I am to guard a duchess-dowager and an heiress. Will it not be romantically generous if I yield the latter to my nephew? From my garrison in Berkeley Square. P.S. The pious insurgents will soon have a military chest. They took forty-five guineas from Charles Turner yesterday.

"Wednesday night, past two in the morning, June 7, 1780.

"As it is impossible to go to bed (for Lady Betty Compton has hoped I would not this very minute, which, next to her asking the contrary, is the thing not to be refused), I cannot be better employed than in proving how much I think of your ladyship at the most horrible moment I ever saw. You shall judge. I was at Gloucester House between nine and ten. The servants announced a great fire; the duchess, her daughters, and I went to the top of the house,

and beheld not only one, but two vast fires, which we took for the King's Bench and Lambeth; but the latter was the new prison, and the former at least was burning at midnight. Colonel Heywood came in and acquainted his royal highness that nine houses in Great Queen Street had been gutted, and the furniture burnt; and he had seen a great Catholic distiller's at Holborn Bridge broken open and all the casks staved; and since the house has been set on fire. At ten I went to Lord Hertford's, and found him and his sons charging muskets. Lord Rockingham has 200 soldiers in his house, and is determined to defend it. Thence I went to General Conway's, and in a moment a servant came in and said there was a great fire just by. We went to the street door, and thought it was St. Martin's Lane in flames, but it is either the Fleet prison or the distiller's. I forgot that in the court of Gloucester House I met Colonel Jennings, who told me there had been an engagement at the Royal Exchange to defend the Bank, and that the Guards had shot sixty of the mob; I have since heard seventy, for I forgot to tell your ladyship that at a great council, held this evening at the Queen's house, at which Lord Rockingham and the Duke of Portland were present, military execution was ordered, for in truth, the justices did not act. After supper I returned to Lady Hertford, finding Charing Cross, and the Haymarket, and Piccadilly, illuminated from fear, though all this end of the town is hitherto perfectly quiet, lines being drawn across the Strand and Holborn, to prevent the mob coming westward. Henry and William Cavendish arrived, and had seen the populace break open the toll-houses on Blackfriars Bridge, and carry off bushels of halfpence, which fell about the street, and then they set fire to the toll-houses. General Conway's porter has seen five distinct conflagrations. Lady Hertford's cook came in, white as this paper. He is a German Catholic: he said his house had been attacked, his furniture burnt; that he had saved one child, and left another with his wife, whom he could not get out; and that not above ten or twelve persons had assaulted his house. I could not credit this, at least was sure it was an episode that had no connection with the general insurrection, and was at most some pique of his neighbours. I sent my own footman to the spot in Woodstock-street; he brought me word there had been eight or ten apprentices who made the riot, that two life-guardsmen had arrived and secured four of the enemies. It seems the cook had refused to illuminate like the rest of the street. To-morrow I suppose his Majesty King George Gordon will order their release; they will be inflated with having been confessors, and turn heroes. On coming home I visited the Duchess Dowager and my fair ward; and am heartily tired with so many expeditions, for which I little imagined I had you enough left. We expect three or four more regiments to-morrow, besides some troops of horse and militia already arrived. We are menaced with counter-squadrons from the country. There will, I fear, be much blood spilt before peace is restored. The Gordon has already surpassed Masaniello, who I do not remember set his own capital on fire. Yet I assure your ladyship there is no panic. Lady Alice has been at the play in the Haymarket, and the Duke and my four nieces at Ranelagh, this evening. For my part, I think the common diversions of these last four-and-twenty hours are sufficient to content any moderate appetite; and as it is now three in the morning, I shall wish you good night, and try to get a little sleep myself, if Lord George Macbeth has not murdered it all. I own I shall not soon forget the sight I saw from the top of Gloucester-house!

"Thursday morning after breakfast. "I do not know whether to call the horrors of the night greater or less than I thought. My printer, who has been out all night, and on the spot of action, says, not above a dozen were killed at the Royal Exchange, some few elsewhere; at the King's Bench, he does not know how many; but in other respects the calamities are dreadful. He saw many houses set on fire, women and children screaming, running out of doors, with what they could save, and knocking one another down with their loads in the confusion. Barnard's Inn is burnt, and some houses mistaken for Catholic. Kirkgate says most of the rioters are apprentices, and plunder and drink have been their chief objects, and both women and men

are still living. The troops will be sent to quell the riot. What were the causes? All this concern the Gin Act and the slave-trade, and the London Riots.

"It is a not surprising of Commons adjourning straight!

"Will your traditions confusion a consternation Kepell, who over Westminister Bridge, part of the city people look they would followed me when I was robbed between to one of the changed this day as he was heard in disown the them. If shall return above four next, and chases did

"Was not been fishing ladyship's very few hours. Well, to dined, Then

"That Four convivial from Newgate to the Tower. recovers it at I father my ship to-morrow what you much you had your and your I am con from what confagration. passions. horror rose there all kind people have replied, what a dreadful chorus may have saved the city. Is it not to words make everything?—Nay, ever the pungent fragrances of our rains! When I made young what dreams and you al Lady Di, broke, Miss Herbert is George G forced to

are still lying dead drunk about the streets: brandy is preferable to enthusiasm. I trust many more troops will arrive to-day. What families ruined! What wretched wives and mothers! What public disgrace!—ay! and where, and when, and how will all this confusion end? and what shall we be when it is concluded? I remember the excise, and the Gin Act and the rebels at Derby, and Wilkes's intestine, and the French at Plymouth; or, I should have a very bad memory; but I never till last night saw London and Southwark in flames!

“After dinner.

“It is a moment, madam, when to be surprised is not surprising. But what will you say to the House of Commons meeting by twelve o'clock to-day, and adjourning, ere fifty members were arrived, to Monday at night? so adieu all government but the sword! Will your ladyship give me credit when I heap contradictions on absurdities—will you believe such confusion and calamities, and yet think there is no consternation?—Well, only hear.—My niece, Mrs. Keppel, with her three daughters, drove since noon over Westminster-bridge, through St. George's Fields, where the King's Bench is smoking, over London Bridge, passed the Bank, and came the whole length of the city! They have been here, and say the people look very unquiet; but can one imagine that they would be smiling? Old Lady Albemarle, who followed me in few minutes from Gloucester House, was robbed at Mrs. Keppel's door in Pall Mall, between ten and eleven by a horseman. Sparrow, one of the delivered convicts, who was to have been hanged this morning, is said to have been shot yesterday as he was spiriting up the rioters. Kirkgate has just heard in the Park, that the Protestant Association draw up the seditions, and will take up arms against them. If we are saved, it will be so by fire. I shall return to my own castle to-morrow: I had not above four hours' sleep last night, and must get some rest. General Conway is enraged at the adjournment, and will go away too. Many coaches and chaises did leave London yesterday. * *

“Strawberry Hill, Saturday night, late. “Was not I cruelly out of luck, madam, to have been fishing in troubled waters for two days for your ladyship's entertainment, and to have come away very few hours before the great pike was hooked? Well, to drop metaphor, here are Garth's lines required.

Thus little villains oft submit to fate.

That great ones may enjoy the world in state. Four convicts on the eve of execution are let loose from Newgate, and Lord George Gordon is sent to the Tower. If he is hanged, the old couplet will never its credit, for Mr. W. Wedderburne is chief justice. I flatter myself I shall receive a line from your ladyship to-morrow morning: I am impatient to hear what you think of *black Wednesday*. I know how much you must have been shocked, but I long to read your own expressions; when you answer, then we are conversing. My sensations are very different from what they were. While in the thick of the conflagration, I was all indignation and a thousand passions. Last night, when sitting silently alone, here rose as I cooled; and grief succeeded, and then all kinds of gloomy presages. For some time people have said, where will all this end? I as often asked, where will it begin? It is now begun, with a dreadful overture; and I tremble to think what the chorus may be! The sword reigns at present, and aved the capital! What to depose the sword?—Is it not to be feared, on the other hand, that other swords may be lifted up?—What probability that everything will subside quietly into the natural channel?—Nay, how narrow will that channel be, whenever the prospect is cleared by peace? What a dismal fragment of an empire! yet would that moment were come, when we are to take a survey of our ruins! That moment I probably shall not see. When I rose this morning, I found the exertions I had made with such puny powers had been far beyond what I could bear; I was too sick to go on with dressing myself. This evening I have been abroad, and you shall hear no more of it. I have been with Lady Di, at Richmond, where I found Lady Pembroke, Miss Herbert, and Mr. Bradenell. Lord Heriot is arrived. They told me the melancholy position of Lady Westmorland. She is sister of Lord George Gordon, and wife of Colonel Woodford, who is forced to conceal himself, having been the first

officer who gave orders to the soldiers to fire, on the attack of Lord Mansfield's house. How many still more deplorable calamities from the tragedy of this week that one shall never hear of! I will change my style, and like an epilogue after a moving piece, divert you with a *bon-mot* of George Selwyn. He came to me yesterday morning from Lady Townshend, who, terrified by the fires of the preceding night, talked the language of the Court, instead of opposition. He said she put him in mind of removed tradesmen, who hang out a board with, ‘Burnt out from over the way.’”

Here we must “draw bridle” for a week. So welcome is the matter of this book as in the first instance to have withdrawn our attention from the manner of its publication. The amount of editorial superintendence exercised over it is inconsiderable,—Mr. Vernon Smith has taken too largely for granted that all the world is as well acquainted with Lady Ossory as he and we are. He was wrong in confining all preliminary notice of her to one paragraph of hearsay character. Throughout these volumes, too, we feel (for the reader) the want of such explanatory notes as those with which Lord Dover elucidated the first series of letters to Sir Horace Mann. One word more:—an advertisement warns us that this series completes “the epistolary works of Horace Walpole”—and that the possessor thereof who already owns the second collection of Mann's Letters published in 1843 and Mr. Bentley's “collective edition” of 1840, will find his set perfect without unprofitable repetitions. Perfect it may be as regards text, yet still most unsatisfactory as a library edition. The chronological arrangement of the first half-dozen volumes does not embrace of course the last six; and while some portions, as has been said, are carefully edited, others are left to make their own way. Ere many years be past, it is natural to expect that the three publications will be incorporated into one,—presuming that no other treasure from the same source remains to be given to the public. Meanwhile, the collector must submit to the inconvenience of a patch-work set of books.

A Book for the Public. New Discovery. The Causes of the Circulation of the Blood; and the True Nature of the Planetary System. Proposing, also, a Natural Adjustment of the Measures of Time and Space for Parliamentary adoption; and shewing how the above Discovery may be applied to the further prolongation of Health and Life. Mead.

We do not often quote a whole *title-page* when it runs to length like this; but authors must take notice that it is in such cases owing to their own dulness that we usually content ourselves with a few leading words. If they would give as much interesting matter as is offered above we could not choose but extract their programmes entire.

What are we to do? But, we remember, we must explain our difficulty before we lament it. We have often had to review assertions of discovery—enunciations of new and wonderful truths;—and it has been our unvarying rule to demand of those who would enlighten the world on any subject good knowledge of the extent to which their predecessors have already done the same. We have assumed presumption in those who pretend to advance knowledge by a push from the rear instead of a pull from the front;—and accompanying such presumption we have further supposed there to be a lack of modesty and an obtrusive disposition. Our author informs us that we have all along been mistaken. The class of discoverers who want patrons, and to whom those jealous scientific men will not pay any attention, are, we are assured, “the persons, above most others, whose minds are the most keenly sensitive, and their

hearts the most deeply susceptible; to whom a chill is misery,—and utter rejection—death!” And now, we repeat, what are we to do? We should be sorry even to chill the author,—and as to slaying him, we should not for a moment think of such a thing. We are sure he is a worthy person,—who sincerely believes that he can do some good, and feels bound to try. But on the other hand, he may mislead other persons as good as himself by his speculations; and we are as much bound to try to preserve them. One of his great mistakes is, that, when he thinks of “our present philosophers,”—meaning men who have gained scientific eminence in the usual way, as distinguished from his own class,—he describes them as “those whom more fortunate contingencies have given distinction in the paths wherein they aspire.” The difference between Dr. Young and our author, for instance, is one of luck:—the former *threw head*, while the latter fears that his lot will be *tail*. At the same time, though the great staple of his book is Light,—though all his great discoveries depend more or less (usually more) on asserted relations of light to other things, he sums up his own information on the subject, as derived from others, by saying,—“I have been informed by a friend, that it has long been matter of discussion whether the motion of light be undulatory or vibratory!” A discoverer in astronomy might as well write,—“I have been told that there was once a dispute whether the earth moved circuitously or circularly.” Undulation and vibration mean the same thing, as used by the optical philosopher; and the question is as to whether light is *emanation* from the sun or *undulation* excited in an all-pervading ether. The author goes on to say that he believes in both vibration and undulation; and shews that he thinks the latter is used in the sense of a wave, as of water, spreading in a circle.

The work is a pamphlet of sixty pages. Should Parliament enable him to do it the author will, he says, publish more discoveries, at least as valuable as those which he has here indicated—which last he means to establish at leisure in a larger work. His system involves the following truths, as he calls them:—that oxygen is generated by light—that light is the sustainer of motion both in the earth and in the blood—*that* the average rate of pulsation in a healthy man being 72 per minute accompanied by 18 respirations, the earth receives for each pulsation a distinct and direct impression from the pulsation of light—that the earth (at its equator, we suppose) revolves about its axis 25,920 natural miles, answering to the same number of respirations in a healthy man—and so on. If our readers want to know something about the *natural trinity* of heat, light and air, and its accordance with the theological trinity—they must consult the pamphlet itself.

Through the author's general remarks run pleas for mercy—mercy—mercy! He tells those who have deeply studied physics, mathematics, philology, antiquity, that they are mostly the victims of long-fostered prejudice, from which the strength of his mind can set them free: and then he calls for mercy and charity, and speaks of those who writhe under the agony of the “pressure of human wrong” and die in silence. This is mere delusion:—and it is one of the most curious instances of the kind which has ever come before us. The tendency of discoverers of the class to which our author belongs is always to deprecate opposition, and even neglect, as a species of wrong;—but the author before us is in the extreme case. We can compare him only to the picture of the special constable in *Punch* exclaiming, “If I kill you it's nothing—but if you kill me, it's murder!” The

greatest charity that we can show this sensitive writer is to bid him learn; and to tell him that, though he has the qualifications of intelligence, ingenuity, and sincerity, for becoming one day a useful labourer in the field of science, he cannot make bricks without straw—or out of straw.

The Dramatic Works of the Right Hon. Richard Brinsley Sheridan. With a Memoir of his Life. By G. G. S. Bohn.

THE author of the memoir prefixed to this compact edition of Sheridan's dramatic works challenges attention by the claim of impartiality and completeness. Dr. Watkins, we are told, wrote like an inveterate Tory,—and Mr. Moore subordinated his hero to Fox. Professor Smyth and Leigh Hunt have both written of their favourite statesmen in a more genial spirit; but their productions are sketches rather than portraits. We doubt whether, after all, the present biographer supplies what he describes as wanting. At any rate, his manner is careless and his matter frequently defective. His dates are not to be depended on,—being imperfectly stated and often misprinted. In justice, however, we should add, that though he makes mistakes of his own he sometimes corrects those of other people.

Sheridan has often been described as having been in his youth a dull boy:—the character, however, is more justly applicable to him at an earlier period of life. His mother, who was a voluminous playwright and novelist, pronounced him and his brother “impenetrable dunces;” but this was in his seventh year,—when she placed him under the tuition of Mr. Samuel Whyte of Dublin. Sheridan at Harrow shewed, if not superior talent, at least literary taste,—having there engaged with a fellow-pupil in the composition of a farce and a translation of Aristophanes. At Bath, too, we find Sheridan a visitor at the celebrated Lady Miller's,—who won her reputation as a literary patron by permitting the authors of verses to kiss her hand, on gala days, as reigning queen of the place. Sheridan, thus inspired, produced many pieces. Lady Miller had few qualifications for the influence which she exerted, beyond the possession of good intentions and a kind disposition. She is described as “a round, coarse, plump-looking dame,—who looked little the better for being dressed in fine clothes. ‘Her manners,’ it is added, ‘were bustling, her air mock-important, and her appearance very inelegant.’” But she was surrounded by enthusiastic idealists, capable of supplying her deficiencies from their own minds, and who invested their idol with every wanting attribute of taste and beauty from the treasury of their own rich imaginations.

It was among the musical circles of Bath, as all our readers know, that Sheridan became acquainted with Miss Linley. Our readers are well acquainted with the romantic details of his love affair and marriage with this lady; but it is proper to warn them that our present biographer impugns the accuracy of Mr. Moore's statements—and particularly those relating to Captain Matthews. Some characteristic points may be selected.—

“Matthews, who, even in his days of wrath, looked upon Sheridan as an exceedingly delightful companion, and as a lover of practical jokes, always spoke of the duel as a specimen of the exhibition of these qualifications. He stated that a friendly communication actually passed between them on the night previous to the duel, amounting to an invitation from Sheridan to sup with him and the seconds; that Sheridan remained at table drinking claret until the time of appointment; that when he quitted it, he walked up Milsom Street, and observing Captain Matthews's chaise waiting at the door to take him to the spot, he reeled into it himself, and insisted

upon his seconds following his example; he then desired the driver to proceed to the ground, which Matthews could not have reached in time, had not the carriage of Captain Paumier taken him there. He found Sheridan in a high state of excitement from potations deep. The duel soon commenced, and, as described by Barnett, Sheridan rushed upon him and tried to wrest his sword out of his grasp; he succeeded in breaking it, and then fell down dragging Matthews upon him; a few slight wounds were made, but the blood, of which so much has been spoken, was, in fact, the claret discharged from the stomach of Sheridan. It would be impossible to arrive at any just conclusion from the statement of both parties. The reply of Sheridan to the injurious reports in several papers was so long delayed that it was at last forgotten. He had requested Woodfall to print, in the *Morning Advertiser*, the articles that reflected upon his own conduct, promising to send his refutation; unfortunately, his request was complied with, and the statements of his opponents were more largely promulgated, whilst his defence, from his indolence, was never to be read. Sheridan, however, became the theme of conversation and of curiosity: thus his first step in life led to notoriety, and in the minds of many to reputation, which he fortunately was capable of maintaining.”

The following story also has been told before; but it is here given with variations.—

“In spite of all that has been written, from the first night of its performance up to the present hour, the ‘School for Scandal’ has maintained its position, and even when indifferently brought forward proves an unceasing attraction. Its uninterrupted run—its certainty of producing money to the treasury—its collecting together all the playgoers—are the best proofs of the estimation in which it is held; its intrinsic merit carries everything before it. Cumberland, the irritable opponent of all merit but his own, has praised the judicious introduction of the screen; but there is an anecdote on record that he was with his young family at an early performance of the ‘School for Scandal;’ they were seated in the stage box, the little children screamed with delight, but the less easily pleased fretful author pinched them, exclaiming, ‘What are you laughing at, my dear little folks? you should not laugh, my angels; there is nothing to laugh at’ and then, in an under-tone, ‘keep still, you little dunces.’ When Sheridan was told of this, he said, ‘It was ungrateful of Cumberland to have been displeased with his children for laughing at my comedy, for when I went to see his tragedy I laughed from beginning to end.’ There is another version of the story extant; for the friends of Sheridan were most anxious to find a reason for the hostile feelings which he was supposed to bear towards Cumberland, and which induced him to use such an unmerciful rod of flagellation in the ‘Critic.’ It is, that Sheridan being most anxious to collect the opinions of the acknowledged judges of dramatic merit, earnestly asked what Mr. Cumberland had said on the first night of the performance. ‘Not a syllable,’ was the answer. ‘But did he seem amused?’—‘Why, faith, he might have been hung up beside Uncle Oliver's picture. He had the damned disinheritance countenance—like the ladies and gentlemen on the walls, he never moved a muscle.’—‘Devilish ungrateful that,’ said Sheridan, ‘for I sat out his tragedy last week, and laughed from beginning to end.’ Cumberland, however, most strenuously denied that he was present when the ‘School for Scandal’ was first performed. The tragedy alluded to is said to be the ‘Carmelites,’ which was the theme of ridicule of Sheridan's friends. In the ‘Rolliad,’ they heap upon it the most extravagant and ludicrous praise, calling Cumberland ‘the most exalted genius of the present age;’ and in describing this tragedy, say, ‘the beauties of which, we will venture confidently to assert, will be admired and felt when those of Shakespeare, Dryden, Otway, Southerne, and Rowe shall no longer be held in estimation.’ Again, ‘Our readers, we trust, will pardon our having been diverted from the task we have undertaken, by the satisfaction of dwelling upon a few of the many beauties of this justly popular and universally admired tragedy, which, in our humble opinion, infinitely surpasses every other theatrical composition, being in truth an assemblage of every possible dramatic excellence; nor do we believe that any production, whether of

ancient or modern date, can exhibit a more uncommon and peculiar selection of language—a greater variety of surprising incidents—a more rapid succession of extraordinary discoveries—a more curious collection of descriptions, similes, metaphors, images, storms, shipwrecks, challenges, and visions—or a more miscellaneous and striking picture of the contending passions of love, hatred, pity, madness, rage, jealousy, remorse, and anger, than this unparalleled performance presents to the admiration of the enraptured spectator. Mr. Cumberland has been represented, perhaps unjustly—as particularly jealous of the fame of his contemporaries; but we are persuaded he will not be offended when, in the rank of modern writers, we place him second only to the imitable author of the ‘Rolliad.’” Such, at any rate, was the feeling which took possession of Sheridan's mind, that he gladly sought the opportunity of holding him up to public ridicule;—whenever the occasion offered, his name was dragged forth. It was also alleged the every piece presented at Drury Lane, by Cumberland, met with a decided refusal; and the newspapers seemed willing to support the disappointed author. Criticisms, ill-tempered, were hurled against the ‘School for Scandal,’ and comparisons were drawn between the moral tendency of the plays that issued from the prolific pen of Cumberland, and those which Sheridan had furnished to the world. This only continued to aggravate the quarrel, and led to further jealousies, which soon exhibited themselves in the production of Cumberland upon the stage as Sir Fretful Plague.”

Genius in Sheridan was hereditary. Not only, as we have said, was his mother an indefatigable writer, but his father and grandfather were both men of talent and wit. Nor was the genius of Sheridan wanting in fertility;—but he failed in application. His manuscripts accordingly show unfinished designs, slight sketches, and imperfect heads of conversation. Politics had, indeed, distracted his attention from literature;—Sheridan had become ambitious of the fame of a parliamentary orator. Wherever he fairly applied his talents he succeeded. Byre, we know, thus sums up the events of Sheridan's life:—“He has written the best comedy, the best opera, the best farce, the best address (the ‘Monologue on Garrick’), and, to crown all, delivered the very best oration (the famous Begum speech) ever conceived or heard in the country.” On this last occasion—and perhaps on the others—Sheridan, there is every reason to believe, was assisted by the talents of his accomplished wife.

It was in the zenith of his fame that Sheridan began to feel those embarrassments that embittered his latter days. The necessity that existed for rebuilding Old Drury Lane Theatre—the death of his first wife—and the destruction by fire of the theatre he had rebuilt; these were the events that concurred in effecting his ruin. The procrastination and improvidence that have been stated as the vices of his character were probably rather the effects than the causes of his embarrassments. But in turn they became aggravating conditions.—

“Professor Smyth was waiting one morning for him in his ante-room, and happened to cast his eye on a table that stood in the middle of the room covered with manuscripts, plays, pamphlets, and papers of every description. As he proceeded to tumble them over and look at their subscriptions, he observed that the letters were most of them unopened, and that some of them had coronets on the seal. He remarked to Mr. Westley, the treasurer of Drury Lane, who was sitting by the fire, having also for a long time danced attendance, that Mr. Sheridan treated all alike, wafer or coronet, pauper or peer, the letters seemed equally unopened. ‘Just so,’ was the treasurer's reply; ‘indeed, last winter I was occupying myself much as you are doing, and for the same reason, and what should I see among these letters but one from myself, unopened like the rest. A letter that I knew contained a 10/- note within it. The history, Sir, was that I had received a note from Mr. Sheridan, dated Bath, and headed with the words ‘Money bound,’ and entreating me to send the first

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104 I could lay my hands upon. This I did. In the meantime I suppose some one had given him a cast in his carriage up to town, and his application to me had never more been thought of; and, therefore, there lay my letter, and would have continued to lie till the housemaid had swept it with the rest into the fire, if I had not accidentally seen it.' Mr. Smyth had not helped, on going down stairs, telling the story to his valet, Edwards, suggesting to him to look after the letters; to which he replied—'What can I do for such a master?' The other morning I went to settle his room after he had gone out, and, on throwing open the windows, found them stuffed up with paper of different kinds, and amongst them bank-notes; there had been a high wind in the night, the windows, I suppose, had rattled; he had come in quite intoxicated, and in the dark, for want of something better, stuffed the bank-notes into the casement; and, as he never knows what he has in his pocket or what he has not, they were never afterwards missed."

Sheridan's present biographer vindicates the conduct of George the Fourth, — who, as he asserts, sent Sheridan in his distress about three thousand pounds; but the money was attached by his creditors before reaching the intended recipient. Our author adds, that, after all, "it was not royal munificence that was required, it was the assistance of his own immediate family that denied him; the whole of his debts did not amount to five thousand pounds, and Mrs. Sheridan's settlement had been fifteen thousand, and, however kind her conduct was towards him from the first moment of his malady, she does not seem to have influenced her friends to step forward to his pecuniary relief: all that has been affirmed of his forlorn situation at the hour of his death is borne out by the testimony of those who saw the utter destitution in which he was; a neglected house—the most deplorable want of the common necessities of life, of decent control over the servants, whose carelessness, even of the physician's prescriptions, was remarked—do not speak of a wife's domestic management, however pure and sincere may have been her affection."

Earnestly recommending to the author a severe revision of this memoir, we are of opinion that it may be made useful—as it is now entertaining. At present, its minute errors are great perplexities.

A Three Years' Cruize in the Mozambique Channel, for the Suppression of the Slave Trade. By Lieut. Barnard, R.N. Bentley.

Is their corporate capacities nations are not much given to chivalry. It is but seldom that the pen of the historian has had to record an act of such sublime magnanimity as that of which England set the example in the suppression, in her hundred isles and continental dominions, of the ancient social institution of slavery. Without the narrow pale of that order of men who live only upon the traditions of the past and look upon property as the most sacred of all rights—placing it even above humanity itself—there is but one opinion as to the grandeur of the act which at once, without reservation or afterthought, enfranchised a whole race.

That national act is the most stainless glory of our century,—perhaps the most unselfish and unselfed that our country has ever performed. The initiative taken, the sacrificial instincts of the people fairly aroused into activity, it was very natural, very necessary, that such ulterior measures should be adopted as would tend to check, and in the end put down altogether, the traffic in man. About the wisdom of adopting, under the circumstances, a repressive line of policy few persons have any misgivings. Having pronounced the Negro free in all her own possessions, England did wisely, justly, in endeavouring, by all legitimate and efficient means, to counteract the evil at its source. But the question, What means are legitimate and effective? is one of great gravity,—not to be determined otherwise than by experience. Certainly,

circumstances have of late years tended to shake any confidence which may formerly have been felt in the beneficial results of our armed *surveillance* of the African coasts. Its legitimacy has been denied by foreign powers; and the question of that "right of search," which we have assumed, in order to render the blockade something beyond a farce, has more than once threatened to embroil us in war with our powerful neighbours. In addition to this element of mischief in the plan, the vast expense of the armament is a sore grievance at home,—requiring, as it does, taxes which even generous people are not willing to pay unless positive good fruits can be shown as the consequence of the outlay. Grave doubts are entertained on this point. Almost every person who has had experience in the matter declares that the condition of the slave is rendered worse by our armed watchfulness in his favour. While men can make 1,000 per cent. profit on the importation of slaves into the Brazils, all the warships of the world will not be able so to protect the thousands of miles of African coast as to prevent desperate wretches—seconded as they are by the native chiefs—from carrying off the negro population. Slave labour has now become so valuable, that one successful voyage is a fair fortune. Those who make a regular trade of it can afford, we believe, to lose three or four ventures out of every five,—the profits out of the residue being sufficient to amply cover all the loss. While this is the case, persons will be found willing to embark in the nefarious business; and while they find ready sellers in the native chiefs all our efforts to put the trade down will fail of complete success,—in fact, will only tend, as they do now, to cause closer confinement and greater rigour to the prohibited cargo, and a larger consumption of life in the shipment and passage. Lieut. Barnard bears his share of testimony on this point. He speaks of three separated disasters which came to his personal knowledge, all happening in the space of six months,—in which 1,200 negroes were brought to an untimely end by fire, disease, and wreck; 300 of whom were burnt in a baracoon, 200 died in the Black schooner, and 700 perished in the wreck of the Julia on the Bassas da India rocks. And he adds, "The suffering which they must have endured, whilst being driven from the interior, must have thinned considerably the original number,—for frequently have I seen them, soon after their arrival at Quillimane, mere skeletons, with death depicted on their countenances."

Mr. Barnard charges the Portuguese officials in those seas with being largely implicated in the traffic,—their salaries being so small as to render them unable to resist the bribes which the slavers can afford to offer in purchase of their connivance; while, as regards the natives themselves, facts like the following should not be overlooked while dealing with the general question.—

"About Quillimane and Luabo, and indeed in all the Portuguese possessions on the coast, are numbers of Colonos, or free blacks, who hire themselves out as wood-cutters, machilia-bearers, or labourers, and such is the degraded state of society that these men are taunted by the slaves as having no white man to look after them, and see them righted when oppressed. They are kept in subjection by a very severe and separate code of laws, and if they break or injure anything which they cannot pay for they become slaves. After the death of Moraes, Azvedo's father-in-law, who was a very severe master, no less than eighty slaves, who had deserted and escaped into the interior, returned to the estate and resumed their work, preferring slavery to the iron rule of the chiefs of their own colour: others come frequently to sell themselves, and to buy them is the greatest boon a good master can bestow, and their price is from three to five pieces of clouty or dungaree. Azvedo relates

an anecdote of a man who day after day had been importuning him to take him as a slave, and, when he found that he could not get rid of his freedom by fair means, he watched the opportunity whilst Azvedo's little boy was walking in the garden with his nurse and tore the child's frock, which created a great hubbub and noise, and the father running out found his son dreadfully frightened and the black rolling in the dirt according to the custom of his country. Embracing his feet he cried out, that as he had refused to buy him, he had torn his child's frock, and having nothing to pay for it he was his slave by the law of the country; so seeing he was so determined he gave him his clout, and he has worked away steadily ever since."

The record of this 'Cruize in the Mozambique Channel' is not very interesting,—nor, as our readers will see, is it well written. The incidental notices of men and things in which we feel an interest are neither very numerous nor very important. Here is a brief account of Zanzibar and of the Imaun of Muscat,—to whose power a very factitious importance has been given by the countenance of the English.—

"The town of Zanzibar is an intricate kind of labyrinth, the streets so narrow that two can scarcely walk abreast, and so short and winding that, without a guide, the only chance of getting out of them is making direct for the beach, along which they are beginning to build large stone houses; and in a few years the increase of trade in European and American hands will make a vast improvement. But the government is so despotic, that the lower orders must necessarily remain in a most degraded state. When the Imaun gives an entertainment, he sends his servants to the market-place, and these take whatever they want for the service of His Highness, without the least payment, whatever be the circumstances of the persons they rob. * * Never was a man so falsely represented or so little understood as this petty Prince. In England we hear of his munificence, his power, his men-of-war, his presents of line-of-battle ships, and fancy him a great potentate, whereas he is merely upheld in his shadow of authority by the countenance of the English. His ships are dismantled and rotting at their anchors; sailors he has none. His palace (so called) is a ramshackle old building, a part of which fell in some time since and killed two of his wives, so that he has only seventy-three left. A Banyan farms the customs-revenue, and his whole income from all his possessions is not more than 100,000*l.* per annum."

This is a favourable specimen of the book and of the small information which it contains. We give one other of the passages that we have marked, as it is one in which the sailor rather than the writer appears;—and we may notice that the peril of the situation lends an earnestness to the style very different from the loose, straggling manner in which the greater part of the context moves.—

"The morning of July 10th, 1843, which had been settled as the day on which I was to take the boats up the river for water, was anything but promising, a fresh breeze blowing from south-east, and a heavy swell setting on the bar; and I ought to have been warned of the great risk I was about to run, but at that time I had passed so often without any accident, that I had become foolhardy, and very dearly bought the experience which has since made me much more prudent. The captain had exchanged the jolly-boat for a gig, sharp at both ends, but with much less beam than whale-boat. We had raised her one streak, and being anxious to try her, I took the lead on shoving off, having with me Denman and Law, six men, and several bags; but finding her too deep, I advised Denman and Law to get into the pinnance or barge, and put also two heavy bags into the latter; when close to the bar I have to, to bale out dry, and practise the men for crossing a surf. On entering the breakers, I found them much heavier than I had anticipated, and from the first, saw that it would be quite a mercy if we crossed safely. However, we got over four breakers beautifully, the boiling foam taking us with it at a most awful rate; the fifth followed us like an overhanging mountain, with its crest in the act of curling, and we rose to it just as it broke,

becoming, as it were, a component part of the foam. My feeling was that of intense anxiety, and I at one time thought it would pass us, and had an encouraging 'all right' on the top of my tongue, when the angry surf boiled up afresh. There was a crash, a cry, and in an instant we were struggling in the breakers; and never were men rescued from a more hopeless situation. My first impulse was to dive from under the boat, and just as I rose to the surface I found myself grappled by a man who could not swim, whom I endeavoured to shake off, but finding that I could keep him up, told him to keep his hand on my shoulder, and took him to the boat, which kept constantly turning round and round like a cask; and the seas constantly breaking over us gave us so little breathing time that nearly all hope of being saved was taken away. It was a most awful moment, and all the people, places, and things I had ever seen, seemed concentrated and present at the same instant to my mind's eye with a startling distinctness; then the misery of being cut off from all, in rude health, with succour close at hand, nerved us all to make extraordinary exertions, and I mentally prayed for presence of mind, for I felt that safety of the whole depended so entirely on me, that I used the whole of my breathing time in cheering up the three men who could not swim. All eyes were fixed on the barge close to us, and approaching rapidly, but every now and then hid by the overhanging crest of a wave which engulfed us a second afterwards, keeping us down longer and longer as our strength failed us and we filled with water. She was almost within our reach when a furious breaker swept her past us with the speed of lightning, and buried us for some seconds. How plainly I saw the faces of all in the barge as they passed us, pale as death, with eyes straining with eager anxiety! but they were helpless as ourselves, and half filled their boat in endeavouring to round to. My men now began to despair, and utter the most piercing cries, and one of them said, 'Good bye, Mr. Barnard, I am going down;' but I tapped him on the shoulder, and told him to look at the pinnace, not then far from us, and we held on by the keel of the boat with the energy and despair of drowning men. At least six times did the surf wash me from one end of the boat to the other, my hand grasping the keel the whole length; still on came our rescuers, our only hope:—some screeched and howled, others left the boat and swam towards the approaching one, and I exerted my remaining strength in calling out, 'Luff, luff,' fearing she would pass us like the barge; however, we were all picked up but one poor boy, named Crapwell, who was probably taken down by a shark. I had grasped the bight of the jib-sheet, and when hauled into the pinnace was quite exhausted and black in the face, and the men were much in the same plight. Fortunately, the Chipoli was at anchor about three miles from us, and we received every attention and kindness from the American officers; and Dr. Tuckerman soon restored us with bottles of hot water at our feet, and friction of warm blankets, and I remained on board, sending the boats on. We all suffered from an unquenchable thirst, and a great soreness in our backs and limbs. However, I was able to get to work the next day."

In conclusion, if Lieut. Barnard's production have any influence at all upon the public mind, it will be to confirm the conviction—now gaining ground—that our anti-slavery policy has been a mistake, and must be changed.

A Book of Ballads from the German. By Percy Boyd, Esq. Dublin, M'Glashan.

If a selection of pieces by the best authors, handsomely printed, and decorated with not ungraceful designs, were enough to recommend a volume of lyrical translations, the book now before us might fairly be praised. It has all these merits. But the work itself, although prettily presented, is deficient in those qualities which, after all, give the only real value to such a collection. The poems of which it consists can hardly indeed be termed translations. They are far from being either accurate versions or happy paraphrases of the originals; and this

defect is not compensated by the quality of the work viewed merely as English poetry. The versification is careless and often harsh,—and, without any reference to the originals, would not prove the writer a proficient in the poetical use of the language into which he has undertaken to render them.

It is, indeed, no easy task to turn lyrics, of even moderate pretensions to elegance or melody, from one language into another. To succeed in it at all, these conditions, at least, are indispensable:—there must be a complete understanding of the original, a quick sense of its peculiar harmony, and the feeling of those refinements, as well in expression as in thought, which are the very life of this delicate class of composition. There should, besides these requisites, be a perfect command as well of the metrical forms of the new vehicle in which the meaning and music of the original are to be represented as of its poetical resources, to enable the translator where differences of idiom forbid an absolutely literal conversion to choose the best equivalent, and to render both the spirit and manner of the foreign model as well as that difference will permit. On inspecting this 'Book of Ballads,' we cannot report in favour of Mr. Boyd's aptitude for so difficult a task in either respect. He does not excel as a writer of English verses; and he gives few signs of having caught the spirit of the German originals,—frequently disregarding their most essential features,—and appearing at times not to have thoroughly understood their meaning. He has not taken much pains to copy the form of the lyrics he selects; but often paraphrases them in a metre different from that of the originals,—a proceeding fatal to lyrical above all other kinds of translation. So much of the charm of any perfect song is inseparable from the music of its rhythm, that half of its peculiar character must vanish in the arbitrary change to a different mode. In this respect, Mr. Boyd has allowed himself great licence. In only one of the pieces of his collection which we have compared with the German has he preserved the true measure—in many he departs from it so widely that not a trace of the peculiar tone of the original will be found in his version—and, on the whole, we must say that his compositions will give no idea whatever, to merely British readers, of either the substance, the manner, or even the bare meaning of the German poems which he here presents to them. We cannot allow those to be translations, in any admissible sense of the term, that have converted some choice specimens of the best lyrists of Germany into very second-rate English verses.

Of their quality as such, readers of the book can judge for themselves. We shall confine ourselves to the quotation of a few instances of the manner in which Mr. Boyd treats the original text of pieces to which the most studious care would barely suffice to render due justice. The selection, we may affirm, is not an inviolable one, as the same process would produce a similar result in any part of the volume.

On looking over its titles merely, we find the contents set down in a way that might suggest doubts as to the close intimacy of Mr. Boyd with this branch of German literature. The names of well-known authors are attached to some of the pieces chosen—others, by the same or equally familiar names, are left without this description, in a manner that can hardly be supposed accidental. One is tempted at first sight to ask how it happens that, while several pieces by Goethe, Uhland, Freiligrath, &c. are ascribed to their authors, others, not less authentic, should be presented as if anonymous:—e.g. Goethe's 'King of Thule' (here called

'The King with the Cup'), Uhland's 'Hostess's Daughter,' Freiligrath's 'Freedom and Right,' Zedlitz's 'Midnight Review,' &c.? It looks as if these poems had been taken from some anthology or album, where they may have stood without the author's name, by one who had not sufficient acquaintance with the lyric writers to assign each to its proper owner. If not, how does it happen that while some are affiliated others are left as if the writer was unknown?

The preface is opened by the author with an account, in questionable taste, of an interview with a literary lady at Heidelberg,—and in the compliment which he makes her pay to his skill in translating there is introduced a single word meant to be German, which, however, it is not. This *may*, indeed, have been a printer's error: but such circumstances, trifling as they may be, are rather apt to produce at the outset an impression as to Mr. Boyd's qualifications for his task that is confirmed by further examination of the manner in which he has executed it.—Of this manner we shall give a very few specimens,—which could easily have been multiplied. It will suffice to take, from some of the principal authors, a verse here and there,—literally the first that came to hand,—and, by comparing Mr. Boyd's version with a more literal rendering of the text, to show how he treats his author's meaning and manner. The translations that we give here are not offered with the least pretension to more than a tolerably close adherence to the poet's text and a preservation of the metre.

In Körner's 'Three Stars' Mr. Boyd has kept the proper measure; but how he preserves the substance may be seen in a single verse. We take the second, running thus:—

In the voice of the song of the poet
Lives a true and affectionate heart;
Song gives to all joy a new lustre;
Song takes from all sorrow its smart.

In the 'Book of Ballads,' the intention and the antithesis of the stanza are alike neglected:—

For there lies in the voice of sweet singing
A spell that can banish all pain;
And the joys of the past seem reviving
In our hearts with its glad notes again.

We next turn to the opening stanza of Freiligrath's 'Freedom and Right,'—which begins pretty nearly to this effect, and in this measure:—

O think not henceforth with the dead shall lie hidden;
O think not henceforth she'll forsake us outright;
Tho' to resolute speakers free words are forbidden,
And they get no justice who scorn to indict;
No, no! though the true ones to exile are wending,
Though others, worn out by oppression ne'er ending,
Have launched their own veins in the dungeon they're pent
in.—

Yet Freedom lives ever, and with her the right!

With Freedom lives Right!

Mr. Boyd's paraphrase of the stanza preserves scarcely a third of its substance; and he effaces its decided character to put in its place not a very distinct one of his own.—

O think not she sleeps with those who have perished,
In dungeons unnumbered, by Tyranny's sword;
In the hearts of the free shall her dear name be cherished,
Though their lips are forbidden to utter the word.
Yes! though lone exiles by mountain and valley
They wander uncheered by lost liberty's light,
There's a pulse in the heart of the freeman to rally,
While Freedom still liveth, and with her the right,

For Freedom and Right!

Uhland fares no better. His ballad, 'The Hostess's Daughter,' derives its essential tone from an old-world form in which the poet has chosen to present a touching expression of three different degrees of love. The measure of the original is that peculiar two-line stanza common to many of the antique popular lays of Teutonic and other German races; and its manner is purposely kept by the Swabian poet in harmony with those brief and rugged originals. We need only copy a few of the opening lines to give an idea of the style.

There went three youngsters across the Rhine,
And yonder they entered the widow's inn.

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After such a specimen as this we might pause; having, we think, sufficiently justified the doubt expressed of Mr. Boyd's vocation as a translator of German lyrics. But he has committed something more strange than this on his approach to the highest name in his collection; by turning a ballad of Goethe's in such a fashion as to render it apparent that he has in general shown a want of feeling for the tone of his originals and a licentious treatment of their text. He has in this instance at least misunderstood the bare meaning of the piece,—and that, too, in a way implying no very profound knowledge of the Ger-

man!

'Dame! have ye good wine and ale? they said,
And where is thy daughter, that fair young maid?
My ale and my wine are cool and clear,
And thy fair young daughter lies dead on her bier!

And when they went into the room, behold,
In her black coffin the maid lay cold, &c. &c.

Would any one imagine that the following lines were presented as the version of a ballad of this very marked character?—

Over Heidelberg's old castle

The morning sunbeams shine,
As journey forth three students*
Across the silver Rhine.

And they came to a small hostel,

Where in the time of old,

Rich wine of Asmannshauer

The good Frau Wirthin sold.

"We know the juice is famous
Which from the grape is press'd;
Come, then, a flagon give na,
Frau Wirthin, of thy best."

High in the mantling brimber
The rich wine sparkles red;
But she, whose eye was brighter,
My gentle child, is dead.

Then forth into the chamber,
They took their mournful way;
Where, like a fair flower withered,
Frau Wirthin's daughter lay, &c.

Such an insipid piece of prettiness can be truly called only a ballad *from* the German, inasmuch as it is as far as possible from anything to be found in the German ballad.

Having none of the better English versions of Schiller's 'Thekla, a Spirit Voice,' at hand, we must beg indulgence for making our own rude copy of the first two stanzas,—in which the elegiac cadence in trochees, and the main substance of the text are, at least, preserved,—to show how Mr. Boyd departs from the one, and overlooks the main features of the other, in one of the choicest gems of German song.—

Where I am, and whither than I wended,
When my fleeting shade before these moved?—
Had I not completed all, and ended?—
Had I not already lived and loved?

Art's thou then for the nightingales, that trilling,
Full of soul, their fond melodious lay,
In the days of spring thy heart were thrilling?—
Only while they still could love—were they?

Which Mr. Boyd thus renders:—

Where am I? whither have I wended
My way? and from thee have I flown?
Is not my pulse of being ended,
And life and love for ever gone?

Ask where the nightingales have vanish'd,
To what fair realm, far off, above,

Who thrill'd in spring, the soul of music

Whose very breath of life was love.

This is absolutely all that is given in exchange for the original stanzas, the purport of which may be seen in our rough version. Measure, tone, meaning,—all, in short, that renders the piece what it peculiarly is,—are passed over in this translation; while it will be felt that the verses offered in stead of Schiller's are themselves of no very choice beauty or distinct meaning.†

After such a specimen as this we might pause; having, we think, sufficiently justified the doubt expressed of Mr. Boyd's vocation as a translator of German lyrics. But he has committed something more strange than this on his approach to the highest name in his collection; by turning a ballad of Goethe's in such a fashion as to render it apparent that he has in general shown a want of feeling for the tone of his originals and a licentious treatment of their text. He has in this instance at least misunderstood the bare meaning of the piece,—and that, too, in a way implying no very profound knowledge of the Ger-

* *Brächen.* This word Mr. Boyd is quite mistaken in rendering *students* here. The university jargon that so applies the word has no place whatever in any poetical style,—least of all in one of this peculiar antique cast.

† It is scarcely necessary to observe that the traits in these opening stanzas which his version effaces are really the key-note of the whole piece. *Hatte ich nicht gelieb't und gespielt?* in the first, expressly recalls the burden of Thekla's earlier strain, 'The Maid's Lament'; while the fourth line of the second strophe, left out altogether by Mr. Boyd, contains the answer for the sake of which it is known this lovely poem was written.

man.—The poem that has given rise to this curious display is one of the happiest *pièces d'occasion* known in that language; composed, if we recollect rightly, for the wedding feast of one of the Ducal family of Weimar,—in which an old tradition of one of his ancestors is gracefully caroled forth in the tone of a wandering minstrel: and the close of the old fairy legend is turned in the prettiest fashion imaginable into a symbol of the modern event which it is produced to celebrate. Mr. Boyd does not seem to have had the slightest notion that such was the character of the piece; and presents it, with an entire confusion of the meaning of the text, as if the poet were relating, in the presence of the principal figure of the tale, events that had happened to that personage himself. He introduces the wedding as if it were something independent of the object of the song:—a mere affair to be casually mentioned as having just happened to the *grandson* (so he translates *Enkel*) of the Count to whom he is singing; and he calls this *Wedding Song* 'A Lay of Christmas!'. Such a blunder as this, we apprehend, could hardly have been made by any one sufficiently conversant with the German to discern the true literal meaning of the piece. We need only give one stanza, as it stands in the original, to show the nature of this curious travesty.

'The Wedding Minstrel' thus begins:—

We'll willingly sing of the Count, sirs! and say
How he once was this palace's owner,
Where we meet to drink joy to the wedding, to-day,
Of that worthy's descendant, His Honour.
Now when that good knight from the holy Crusade,
Where long he had fought and great valour displayed,
Came back, and, dismounting, his dwelling surveyed,
There he found, safe enough, the old castle,
But within, not a thing nor a vassal!

For which we are offered this opening of 'A Lay of Christmas':—

We cheerfully sing and inscribe our glad lay
To the lord of the castle here seated,
Whose grandson exposed a fair lady to-day,
And the bridal guests sumptuously fled.
In the late Holy Wars he won honour and fame,
By splendid achievements emblazoned his name,
Yet behold, when adown from his charge he came
To his mansion, he found it as open as day,
His property vanished, his servants away!

In the concluding verse, the violence done to the sense of the text in consequence of this mistake at the outset is, if possible, still ruder. But we need not go further. What has already been shown will suffice to prove that Mr. Boyd is not peculiarly well fitted for public appearance as an interpreter of German poetry to English readers:—and he may be apprised that "its mines," which, he says, he hopes to open to their research, have already been not quite so "partially explored" as to afford many chances of success or approbation to such a treatment of some of its best known treasures as this volume of his exhibits. In his preface, indeed, Mr. Boyd lays it down as his opinion that a certain freedom of treatment is necessary to preserve the spirit of poetry translated from a foreign language. Without entering on the discussion of this system of translation, it will be apparent that such liberties as he has taken in practice cannot be justified on any principle whatever; and it will scarcely be concluded from his example that the method he recommends—of closing the pages of his author, and rendering the text from memory—is favourable to the reproduction of either the substantive matter or the more evanescent graces of foreign poetry.

The Statistical Companion. By T. C. Banfield and C. R. Weld, Esqs. Longman & Co.

THE Statistical Clerk of the Council of Education and the Assistant Secretary of the Royal Society—one professional and one amateur statistician—have put into about one hundred and

* We cannot tell whether this manomeric is due to some dictionary reference to the primary sense of *Hoch-zeit*, festival, (High-tide), or is merely an instance of Mr. Boyd's usual liberties with the text of his original.

thirty pages as useful a collection of tables as perhaps could be contained in that space, and one which possesses general interest from the variety of its matter. A glance at the index will throw out to the eye such differences of subject as *malt* and *mankind*, *congelation* and *consols*.

A person to whom a varied collection of statistical facts suggests nothing must be fit for nothing; and the proof is, that he certainly would not be fit for a penny-a-liner. If we had to compose an article of odds and ends to fill up interstices in a newspaper, we could do it out of this work as fast as we could run the eye along the pages. For example:—Neptune is three times as far off from the Sun as Saturn—the southern temperate zone has only one-eighth as much land as the northern—the Lake of Geneva is about the thousandth part of the Black Sea—the Po is twice as long as the Thames—June is, day and night together, hotter than July—cedar and elm are pretty much of the same weight—three English kings are buried in France—in fourteen years the Royal Society will be two hundred years old—there have been but three administrations longer than Lord Melbourne's since the accession of George III.—no English bishop has now held his see twenty-five years—and so on, all out of the first eleven pages.

The parts which relate to population, taxation, and other matters of political economy, are, for the extent of the work, very complete: these, of course, the reader expects. But here and there we meet with something that we perhaps should not look for—and certainly should hardly know where to look. The summary of the electric telegraph, for instance:—1767 miles in all. The comparison of the increases of population from census to census with the number of acres inclosed in each interval tells its own story. In the first ten years of the century, eight acres were inclosed for each eleven individuals added to the population: from 1830 to 1840, not three for thirteen. And yet, for twenty-six millions of cultivated acres, England is said to possess three and a half millions of waste capable of improvement, and nearly as much more called incapable. How those who are alive after one more century of improvement will then smile at this last statement: just as much as we did at the accident by which it was thrown under our eye, in the same page as the above, that the 'Nawab of Jujjuhur' has an English clerk, at 180/- n-year. What would Lord Clive's ghost say to that?

We might fish out many tables on which to remark;—but we have said enough. The book before us is a valuable adjunct to the yearly publications which contain statistical accounts. To these last it may suggest something. To the reader in general, it will in many cases be the means of calling his attention to the use of statistics. And it must be observed that the regular channels of information give nothing to the common reader, merely because he has never had such a simple independent collection as the present one to arouse his attention. For instance, the accounts given of the markets in the daily papers are passed over as yielding nothing, by a great many who, if they had examined some collected materials, would be able to see in them, to some extent, those indications of the state of the country which the initiated pick out at a glance.

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GEOGRAPHICAL ROUTES.

The subject to which the following communication refers will be almost immediately brought before the American Congress by the Hon. F. Butler King, Chairman of the Committee on Naval Affairs in the House of Representatives;—but its interest is by no means exclusively American. It interests the whole mercantile and commercial world—and no part more than England. Whatever tends to facilitate intercourse with China is of importance to this country: and the adoption of that part of Lieut. Maury's project which respects the establishment of steam-vessels between a port in California and China, with a horse-mail overland to Memphis in Tennessee, and thence to New York and Boston, and across the Atlantic by steam-packet to England, would, it is said, enable the merchant in London to receive news from China in 60 days— and when the arrangement should be completed, in 45 days.—It may even turn out to be worthy of consideration whether this route would not afford the readiest mode of communication between Great Britain and her East Indian possessions—as well as, by far, the most economical. But looking at the question involved in a more general and philanthropical point of view, every improved facility of intercourse between distant nations is a triumph over time and space, and a means of the more rapid spread of knowledge and civilization.—We have, therefore, been requested to bring the subject before English readers:—and as the name of Lieut. Maury is one which entitles his views to great consideration, and will probably insure a good deal of inquiry to them among mercantile men, we have thought it right to comply with the request.—Lieut. Maury, as many of our readers know, is Superintendent of the National Observatory at Washington.

To the Hon. T. Butler King.

My dear Sir,—Yours of the 21st of December 1847, in reply to mine of the day previous, has been received. As it is the text for what is to follow, I take the liberty of quoting it:—

"I am greatly indebted for your note of yesterday, this moment received. It discloses the remarkable facts that in establishing the line of steamers from Panama to Oregon, we have actually taken a step of 3,000 miles to China! That California must afford the point of departure for our line of steamers to China is a fact which I have long been aware of, and a naval depot on the Pacific I consider would not it also become a rendezvous for our whale ships instead of the Sandwich Islands, and the terminus of the great railway to connect the Atlantic and the Pacific? This Great Circle route from the shores of the Pacific to those of China may justly be regarded in the light of an important discovery made by me,—no other persons ever having suggested it. I must, therefore, beg the favour of you to give me your views respecting it, and the above suggestion more in detail.—Most truly yours.—(Signed,) T. BUTLER KING."

In the various projects which have from time to time been proposed for reaching China, partly by railroad across the Isthmus of Darien or other parts of the continent, it does not appear that the Great Circle route across the ocean has ever been considered. If we examine the course and distance from Panama to Shunghae as they appear on Mercator's chart, which the distance used in navigation, we shall find the distance to be about 9,500 miles, and the course to be by the way of the Sandwich Islands, which are midway this route. But on this chart, as on all others, the surface of the earth, which is a sphere, is represented as

plane, and is therefore distorted. The shortest distance between any two places, unless they both lie on the equator or the same meridian, is not the straight line on the chart which joins them, but it is along the arc of the Great Circle in the plane of which the places are situated, and this arc when projected on the chart will appear as a curved line. Now if we take a common terrestrial globe and draw a string tightly across it from Panama to Shanghai, it will show how the shortest distance between the two places will represent the Great Circle route between them; and this string, so far from touching the Sandwich Islands, will pass through the Gulf of Mexico, then through Louisiana, and towards Oregon, crossing the ocean several thousand miles to the north of them. The distance from Panama to Shanghai by this route, were it practicable to travel it, is 8,200 miles, or about 1,300 miles less than it is by the way of the Sandwich Islands. Now to those who are accustomed to form ideas of bearings and distances from maps and charts, and not from globes, this statement may appear startling at first; but it is nevertheless true that a person standing at New Orleans is about 3,000 miles nearer to China than he is when he starts from Panama by the way of the Sandwich Islands, notwithstanding he will have travelled at least 1,500 miles to reach Panama. But the great circle from Panama through the Gulf and Louisiana to China as a travelling route is impracticable; and the next step, therefore, is to find a route which is practicable, and which shall deviate from this as little as possible; and other obstacles to navigation will admit. When we have found such a route, we can examine the advantages which have been proposed—indeed, compare it with other routes that have been offered.

has already been projected, and is partly completed. From Memphis to Monterey, the distance by an air line is 1,160 miles. Supposing your proposed line of steamers established to China and this railroad completed to Monterey, the productions and rich merchandise of China and Japan might be placed in the lap of the Great Valley of the Mississippi within thirty days. The intelligence brought by sea arrival would be instantly caught up by telegraph and delivered in New York and Boston. Here the steamers would receive it on board, and in thirteen days more arrive with it in England; thence it would be taken across the Channel in a few hours, and immediately communicated through the magnetic wires to all parts of the Continent; and, by this route, intelligence might be conveyed from China, through the United States, to the people of St. Petersburg and Moscow, and perhaps at no distant day to Copenhagen also, within forty-five days. I see no reason why the rate of travel over the railroads hereafter to be constructed in America should not, at least, be equal to that of the English and European railroads. I believe the usual rate in England to be about forty miles the hour; over seas roads it is more; but supposing the rate over the great Atlantic and Pacific railroad to be only twenty miles the hour, the time from Monterey to Memphis would occupy that day. This route would confer the advantage of being at once the most natural and direct route that has been proposed from the United States to China. The distance from Memphis by Monterey and the Great Circle is only 7 per cent. greater than it is by a "bee line" drawn through the air from Memphis direct to Shanghai.

If you look to the long-and-much-talked-of canal across the Isthmus of Darien to Panama, you will find that a person from Memphis to China by that route would, on making Cape St. Lucas, the southern point of the peninsula of California, be no nearer to Shanghai in point of distance than he was the day he embarked at Memphis; notwithstanding that, to reach Cape St. Lucas, he would have travelled upwards of 4,000 miles. And if he should go by the way of the Sandwich Islands, he would, to reach China, have to perform a journey of 5,000 miles greater than would be required of him on this new route, by railroad and Great Circle to Monterey. In the progressive spirit of the age, time has come to be reckoned as money; and if there were a canal already cut from Chagres to Panama, the celerity of the route and the loss of time compared with what is to be gained by the proposed line from Memphis and Monterey would in time cause the abandonment of that and the completion of this, at least so far as raw silk for England, travellers, and the people of the United States are concerned. The route across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, though not so far out of the way as that by Panama, is nevertheless a round-about one; the distance by it to China being over 2,000 miles greater than it is from Memphis via Monterey.

In 1521 Cortes caused a survey to be made of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec for the purpose of uniting the two oceans through it. Afterwards it became the favorite route by which the Manila merchants and others crossed over from Acapulco to the Gulf of Mexico. Towards the latter part of the last century an accidental circumstance gave it fresh importance. The Viceroy Bucareli observing some brass pieces in or near the famous castle of San Juan d'Uluia, with the stamp of the Manila foundry upon them, wished to know how they were brought to the Gulf. It was ascertained from the archives of the imperial city of Tenochtitlan that these heavy pieces had been transported from the Pacific to the Gulf, partly by land and partly by sea across that Isthmus. The route was from the Pacific below the Chicas, across the Mal-pasos thence by land over the Gelves Cordilleras, to the head waters of the Coatzacoalcos, which empties into the Gulf. At what sacrifice of money, time and men those pieces were transported is not stated; but it should be recollected that thefeat was performed when the Spanish galleons from Acapulco were ballasted with silver and laden with gold. In 1814 the Spanish Cortes actually ordered the canal to be made, but this order produced no other result than a reconnaissance by General Obregos, which I have before me, in the very excellent work of Dr. Mofras, entitled "Exploration de Territorio de l'Oregon;" Paris, 1844. Although the General's geodetic report was never completed, it gives in the language of that intelligent writer, "very correct ideas of the nature of the ground, and of the difficulties presents." I have also before me a MS. copy of the survey made three or four years ago by Cayetano Mora, in connection with the grant by Santa Anna to Don Jose Gaspar for connecting the two oceans by canal through this Isthmus. This MS. was obtained by Commander M'Kenzie, U.S.N.

is from Liverpool to Halifax, where the Cunard line has its dépôt: though the lines from New York to Liverpool, Havre and Bremen have proved that 3,000 miles are not beyond the fuel limits of steamers. By examining the charts or a globe, you will see that this route from Monterey lies wholly without the limits of the N.E. trade winds, and therefore so much the better for steamers. Though little or nothing is known of this part of the ocean, except to the enterprising whalers of New England, yet reasoning from what we know as to the prevailing winds between the same parallels in the North Atlantic, I suppose that this route, under certain circumstances, will also prove the best for sailing vessels.

But you have asked me to consider the best route, not for sailing vessels, but for a line of steamers. The Great Circle is the route for steamers both ways;—and supposing the vessels upon the proposed line to be equal in speed to the Great Western in her palmy days— and why should they not be superior?—they will make the passage to and fro between Shanghai and Monterey in twenty-six days, including the stoppage of a day for coaling at the Fox Islands. It has been shown that Monterey is directly on the great highway from Western South America and Mexico to China. The fact is of itself sufficient to show why the preference should be given to it as the American terminus of the line.

Intimately connected with the subject, however, is a railroad from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

again, the fleets of ships which, we are told, are

THE ATHENÆUM

pass through such a canal. Suppose the feeder to be ample, at any one who would form an idea as to the cost of a ship canal in the pestilential climate and inhospitable country of this isthmus, recollect the expense of the Louisville Canal, constructed with everything in hand, in a healthy and settled country, around the falls of the Ohio; and it is but as a rod in length, and only as a race for shallops in comparison with this. Let him collect the difficulties, nay, practically the impossibility, of deepening the Western rivers. We have not been able to increase the depth of the Mississippi at low water even so much as two feet, much less sixteen. What, think you, would have been the expense of digging out the Ohio river from Wheeling to Pittsburgh, before that country was settled, so as to afford a uniform depth of 17 feet at low water? Go into the calculation and examine the items: after that you may be able to form something like an approximate estimate as to the cost of a ship canal across this continent, in the most unhealthy region of the globe; a region in which native or acculturated labourers are not to be found, and where foreign labourers, knowing they should have to work knee deep in mud and water, under a tropical sun in such a climate, could not be had for wages.

So impressed are the Mexicans themselves with the unhealthiness of the route, that Santa Anna, after granting to Gary the privilege, which he proclaimed to his countrymen would make Mexico the focus of the world's commerce, the emporium of wealth and power, issued a decree directing judges to sentence malefactors to work on this canal, and then ordered a prison to be built on its banks to keep the labourers in.

But suppose the mines of Potosi to be exhausted, and the canal to be made, I doubt much of its extensive use; for there are in the minds of sailors obstacles still in the way. It is well known, that in that part of America during the sickly season, even a few hours on shore are considered sometimes fatal, and always dangerous, to unacclimated foreigners. Two years ago the United States frigate *Santa Anna*, cruising in the Pacific, touched on the coast of Tahitiopae during the *healthy* season. Four of her crew deserted, and in two weeks three out of the four were dead. She was followed by the *Warren*; seven of her crew deserted, one of whom in a very short time after, wasted and worn down with disease, found his way back, and reported himself as the only surviving man of the party.

During any season, but especially the sickly season, which on this Isthmus is most of the year, a night in the black hole of Calcutta would be quite as inviting to travellers as a passage through this canal, and I suppose that seamen would not ship to sail through at such seasons on any terms. But if they would there are other obstacles still in the background,—perhaps they are the great obstacles. I allude to the bars across the harbour, and the dangers at either terminus of the canal. The bars are shifting bars, and therefore the more difficult to remove. The water over the bars at the mouth of the harbour on the Gulf, is variously stated at from 14 to 20 feet; while the outlet at the other end is obstructed by the bars both of Tenerife and Francisco. As often as vessels, on approaching the mouth of the Coatzcanales from the Gulf, should be caught in a northerly and hurricanes prevail here for much of the year—there would be danger, if not wreck. The ships would be hemmed close on a lee shore, from which there is no escape;—there is no harbour or shelter to the south of Vera Cruz;—that a vessel at such times could make. During a northerly sea, breaks “feather white” across this bar, and where the sea breaks in a gale, no ship can live; with such an exposure to the swell from the north, as this bar presents, to prevent the rollers from breaking over it, it would require a depth twice if not thrice as great as it now has. There are bars at the mouth of the Mississippi river choking up the commerce of this great valley, and checking, if not destroying, the prosperity of the whole country; and yet the labour and cost of deepening it, even so much as two feet more, are such, that the enterprise of the nation has not yet found itself equal to the task. Look at the coast line about the Coatzcanales. The port is in the middle of the crescent formed between the peninsula of Yucatan and the coast below Tampico; now you will observe that if a vessel were caught in a northerly off the bar of the Coatzcanales, she could not make any course that would take her clear of the shore; she is in the “cul de sac” as it were. The bars have not as much water on them; and the outer one is exposed to the full force of the waves that come across the broad ocean. The sea there is visited by the most violent storms, accompanied by thunder and lightning, that are described by sailors as truly awful. In short, are the dangers and difficulties of navigation in that region, that there is an Admiralty order forbidding British ships of war to visit it between June and November. There are also the Nicarguas, and three or four other routes that have occupied more or less the attention of nations and capitals from time to time; but the difficulties and objections with regard to them are quite as serious as those which I have been considering with regard to Tehuantepec and Panama.

A railroad from Memphis to Monterey would take the inland trade to Santa Fé and Mexico, and increase it many fold. It is probable that several millions of Mexican people would use the road as their commercial thoroughfare; for the extent of country to be supplied resolves itself into a question of dollars and cents.

All those people who could get articles for less cost over it than they would pay to receive the same over the rough roads from Vera Cruz and Tampico would certainly use it. There are other items of cost which it may be proper to enumerate.

Memphis is the point of departure for this route: a city in the heart of the country, and occupying a central position; it is situated right on the way-side of the great national highway and commercial thoroughfare between the North and the South, the East and the West. The Charleston Railroad will connect it with the Atlantic; the Mississippi river already connects it with the Gulf of

Mexico and the Lakes; and it is connected with thousands of square leagues of a rich and thriving country, through a ramified system of navigable tributaries, which, if drawn out in one continuous stream, would more than circle the entire globe. Growing out of these circumstances, the statesman will discover a general value, containing items sufficient in consequence and importance to tempt nations into prodigality. Whitney's, Wilkes', and Col. Gadsden's roads to the Pacific have each their advantages, friends, and advocates. The country is wide, and I do not start this route in opposition to either of the three, not having the requisite topographical and geodetic information as to *any* of the routes that have been proposed from the Valley of the Mississippi to the Pacific. I have only been considering the most direct route *geographically* by which some central point of the country may be connected with China by railroad and steamers. I did not select Whitney's as a link in this chain, because it is out of the way of the great circle from Western America to China, because this line lies in a colder region, and would be liable to obstructions in winter, and because the harbour at the mouth of the Columbia river is not comparable to those in California.

Capt. Howison was wrecked at the mouth of that river two years ago in the U.S. schooner *Shark*: she went to pieces at a place on the bar, where, but a few years before, the Exploring Expedition found water enough to float a seventy-four. He chartered a vessel to take himself and crew to the Bay of San Francisco, distant nine days' sail; and though drawing but eight feet water, he was detained sixty-three days just inside of the bar of that river, and within one hour's sail of the open sea, waiting to get out. I learn from that officer—and upon professional subjects there is not to be found any better authority—that the character of that harbour has entirely changed since Capt. Wilkes surveyed it. I did not select the route proposed by Wilkes from the Missouri, because it is too far out of the way of the Great Circle, and also liable to obstructions in winter. Nor did I select, nor have I advocated, the route from Memphis as the very best that is. I wish you to understand that I do not pretend to know anything as to the nature of the ground or the obstacles of the way, further than what one may gather from mere geographical knowledge. San Diego and San Francisco may either offer a better terminus for the railroad than Monterey, and Col. Gadsden's route to San Diego may be the best.

Lieut. Minor, U.S.N., who has been governor of San Diego, informs me that he found bituminous coal in the Salagon valley, about six miles from the port. He took a waggon-load from an outcrop surface, and used it in the forge, though it was strongly impregnated with sulphur. Geographically speaking, Memphis and Monterey are the points, but *geologically*, practically, and commercially, it may be better to improve the navigation of the Rio Grande, so as to ascend it by steamboats some 400 or 500 miles to the Paso del Norte, or even further up; then cross over the Sierra to the head-waters of the Gila; thence down that shallow stream with locks and dams to its junction with the Colorado, and thence to San Diego and the ocean. But seeing that, practically with us, it is not so easy to make navigable those rivers in the West which are not so, I do not expect ever to see this route successfully pursued or even seriously advocated. Crossing the Mississippi midway between the Gulf and the Lakes, the proposed route from Memphis would be through a healthy, and for the most part a fertile, country. It never would be blocked up with snow. Of all the routes ever proposed from the United States to China it is the most direct for the people of the States, the West Indies, Brazil, Bolivia, and all the intermediate country. The length of the rail road may be shortened several hundred miles, for the present at least, by starting it from the sources or head of navigation of the Arkansas. The effects of a railroad rail road from Memphis to one of the ports of California, in connexion with a line of steamers thence to China, would be to break up old thoroughfares and channels of commerce through the Pacific, and to turn them through the United States. Let such a railroad be given to the country, and after it shall have been for a little while in successful operation you will hear no more said by the people on the Atlantic side in favour of a canal or railroad across the Isthmus of Darien for their convenience in communicating with China and the *Old East*. So far from the people of the Atlantic States wanting a highway there by which to get to the Pacific, the people of all Pacific America south of Mexico, will want to cut through the Isthmus of Panama to get to us, on their way to China and the East. The time from Panama to Memphis by steamer across the Gulf of Mexico and up the Mississippi, at 230 miles the day, would be nine days, and thence by railroad to Monterey, three; total twelve days, and distance 3,500 miles. The time from Panama up the Pacific coast to Monterey, allowing the same rate, at 220 to the steamer, would be fifteen days, the distance 3,300 miles. This part of the voyage would be tame to an extreme degree, having scarcely variety enough to make applicable the traveller's witicism, “Sometimes we ship a sea and sometimes we see a ship.” Say, then, which of the two lines would a passenger on arriving from Valparaiso at Panama, or at Cuba from Brazil, or at Jamaica from England, be most likely to take? The one on this tedious route along the Mexican coast, with its dull monotony, or the one through the Gulf of Mexico, with its pleasing variety, up the Mississippi, and thence across the country by railroad to California?

Considering the present commercial condition of the Japan and Chinese Empires; regarding the destiny of the Pacific States of the Union as one of glorious promise; taking into view the changes which are annually occurring in the articles of trade and in the channels of commerce; and recollecting that of the 900 millions of people who are said to inhabit the earth, 600 millions of them are to be found in the islands and countries which are washed by the Pacific—it is difficult to overrate the value and importance of a safe and ready means of communication, through California, with those people. These 600 millions have always been behind the 300 millions of the Atlantic in

the art of ship-building and in commercial enterprise. Their junks and proas were made only for creeping along the “coward shores,” not for venturing across the broad ocean. They are content that those white-winged vessels which come from beyond the “black waters” should fetch and carry for them.

The Islanders will cease to go naked, the Chinaman will give up his chopstick, and the Baltic Russian his train oil, when they find that they can exchange the productions of their soil and labour for that which is more pleasing to the taste or fancy. Hitherto, the way to reach these people has been around the stormy capes,—and the expense of carrying to the labouring classes, whose name there is Legion, suitable articles of food and raiment, has been greater than they could bear. Do you suppose that the labouring classes of China would live and die on the unchanged diet of rice, if they could obtain meat and bread? America will soon be offering from its western shores, not only these articles, but many other items of commerce which, by constant and familiar intercourse with our people, they will learn to want, and be taught to buy.

I regard the proposed railroad and line of steamers as but an entering wedge; which, that these new channels of commerce may be quickly and safely opened, should be driven with energy. The railroad must be a work of time—the line of steamers may be quickly started. I would therefore beg leave to call your attention to the importance of putting into simultaneous operation with the steamers, a mail to run, in connexion with them, from Monterey to the most convenient point in the United States. This mail would not, probably, be oftener than once a month. If its route be to Memphis or Little Rock, the direct road would be near Santa Fé and through Taos. Supposing a grand pass should be found through the mountains, this mail would want an escort, and should be carried on horseback. On account of the Indians, &c., which beset this route, it might be well to establish a line of small block-houses for the protection and safety of the emigrants to California. These stations could also supply horses, riders, and escorts for the mail. In that country a journey on horseback, once a month, of fifty miles in twelve hours—or four miles an hour—would not be considered impracticable, either for man or horse; or with relays to accompany the riders, six miles an hour, or seventy-two miles in twelve hours, might be accomplished. But suppose the rate to be only fifty miles in twelve hours, or one hundred in twenty-four, it would then be practicable, continuing the mail day and night, to reach Independence (Missouri) or Fort Gibson (Arkansas) from Monterey, in ten or twelve days; and thus letters from China might be delivered in New York within forty-five days after date. It now takes more than twice that time. When this mail route shall be established, the merchant in Boston, forty-five or fifty days after his ship shall have sailed for China, may send (via Monterey) fresh instructions, and they will reach consignees in China as soon as the ship will. Whether San Diego, Monterey, or San Francisco, shall be selected as the terminus of the railroad, and the line to China, will, or ought to, depend partly upon the comparative facilities by which these ports may be reached from Memphis, and partly upon the advantages which they offer for the principal dockyard hereafter to be established on the Pacific. The necessary surveys and examinations are wanting to decide this point.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE AND GOVERNESSES.

As you have several times adverted to the progress of the Governesses' Benevolent Institution, perhaps you will allow a constant reader an opportunity of making a few remarks on the present state and prospects of an institution about to be opened, in some degree connected with it, but independent in its management and apparatus.

You cannot but be aware that young women and girls in the middle rank of life in England are almost ignored by society so far as any public provision for their education is concerned. We have schools for the *poorest* of our girls, as numerous as for boys; but when you come to the class of young people above these—the daughters of small tradesmen, second or third class professional men, &c.,—where are your grammar schools, your corporate provisions, your state endowments, which might assist women of middle rank to get an education at once good and cheap? We know that there is absolutely nothing of all this—that the daughters of these respectable tradesmen or second-rate professional people can rarely, if ever, obtain the benefit of a sound training in the use of their own language from a common day-school. The chances are that the teacher has never herself been well taught,—that where there is no test of competency afforded, the most ignorant persons may long escape with impunity. Or, again, if a parent sends his daughter to boarding-school, is there any medium between something enormously expensive offering luxuries which he does not covet, and something miserably low which offers only a few paltry and showy accomplishments instead of better instruction? A serious evil this; but not without remedy,—and likely to be redressed in part by means of that which our excellent and learned Professors have perhaps a little objectionably chosen to call the Queen's College. Believing the want to be one springing up amongst the people, and met by the

people, in the absence of help from high quarters, I cannot but think they would have done better to have given the institution something more of the name and character of a proprietary school—to have called it simply an Institution for giving Class Instruction to Ladies.*

Be this, however, as it may,—it may and will, as far as can be foreseen, be at least one grand step towards gaining what is really wanted—good class instruction, at an easy rate, for girls in that rank of life out of which most of our teachers spring. It will soon be discovered, however, that the age of twelve—fixed as the minimum by the College—is too advanced for the practical wants of these girls. Girls should have been learning grammar, geography, &c., under good superintendence, from the age of eight,—and by the time they are thirteen and fourteen they would be properly prepared to enjoy and benefit by the higher advantages of the College, with its able Professors. What these Professors meanwhile may be doing will be very valuable. They will be attended by young women,—some of them already governesses. To them they may open many a new thought; and they may suggest a consciousness of imperfection to some that will lead to earnest endeavours to find out their predominant defects and rectify them. To others they may give the deserved advantage of certificates of capability and of sound knowledge:—and if these gentlemen are so inclined, they may render essential service to the cause of Woman's education by giving all the strength of recommendation to some of these well-tested teachers should they be inclined to open preparatory classes for young girls.

In looking over the list of subjects included in the College course, many, I believe, as well as myself, have felt disappointed at seeing no distinct provision made for the study of the mind itself. It is no doubt possible to include this, to a considerable extent, in other courses;—any inquiry, for instance, into the "principles of teaching" must lead to it. But, as teachers, and of women teachers especially (and must not every woman at some period of life be such?) are likely to avail themselves, from a deep interest in education, of the Queen's College courses, may not a spectator be allowed to express a doubt whether anything short of a distinct study of what, for want of a better term, we must call Mental Philosophy will correct the errors and quicken the perceptions of a large proportion of women?—I do not say that this may not be perverted—that in some hands it might not become a mere jargon, filling the head with the notion of something very deep: but take the facts of life—how many persons there are who would be far more valuable as educators if they were trained in observation of mental phenomena! How many teachers injure children—or at least help to retard mental discipline—by cultivating blindly one power in the most disproportionate manner; starving one—pampering another—overlaying another—thus inflicting on their pupils, but especially their female pupils, the serious, (in their case) perhaps greatest injury, the burden of an unequal, unbalanced mind through life! Unfortunately, men—clever men especially—living a life of activity and finding ample scope for themselves, even when there is much less of this equal cultivation than could be wished, fail often to perceive that the greatest want of a woman's mind, built up as her life is in a different manner, is that of equal, careful cultivation. No wonder that men shrink from the sickening aspect of female pedantry; but in avoiding this, let them remember the hundreds and hundreds who are not pedants, but stunted and distorted by unfair education—rendered unhappy and peevish in a great measure through the fault of instructors who had given them no clear idea of the worth and weight and proportion of the various instruments of work with which they are endowed—and who have been all their lives, even when endeavouring to submit to the dictates of enlightened conscience on *moral* points, still encompassed with difficulties from the early treatment of their minds. T.

* How easy it is to mimic high-sounding titles may be seen by the following advertisement in the *Times* for April the 27th, which has just met my eye.

"Queen's College Institution for Ladies, — Park, — Town, re-opens for the next term on Monday, May 1st, &c.—Mrs. —, LADY PRINCIPAL."

OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

At the tenth Annual General Meeting of the Camden Society, held on Tuesday last, the President Lord Braybrooke in the chair, great interest was expressed for the success of the memorial which we mentioned a week or two since as about to be presented by the President and Council to the Archbishop of Canterbury, praying for a free inspection by literary men for literary purposes of the records existing in the Prerogative Office in Doctors Commons. The Council make out a strong case for the interference of the Archbishop; and we think it right to reinforce their efforts by reprinting the arguments on which they petition for an assimilation of the practice here with that of other Record offices.

Besides the original wills deposited in the Office of the Prerogative Court, there is kept in the same repository a long series of register books, containing copies of wills entered chronologically from A.D. 1333 to the present time. These registers or books of entry fall practically into two different divisions or classes. The earlier and the latter books contain information suited to the wants of totally different kinds of persons, and applicable to entirely different purposes. Their custody is also of very different importance to the office. The class which is first both in number of books and in importance contains entries of modern wills. These are daily consulted by relatives of testators, by claimants and solicitors, principally for legal purposes, and yield a large revenue to the office in fees paid for searches, inspections and copies. The second class, which comprises a comparatively small number of volumes, contains entries of ancient wills, dated before the period during which wills are now useful for legal purposes. These are never consulted by lawyers or claimants, nor do they yield any revenue to the office, save an occasional small receipt from the Camden Society, or from some similar body or private literary inquirer. With respect to the original wills, and the entries of modern wills, your memorialists beg to express clearly that this application is not designed to have any reference to them. Your memorialists confine their remarks exclusively to the books of entries of those ancient wills which have long and unquestionably ceased to be useful for legal purposes. These entries of ancient wills are of the very highest importance to historical inquirers. They abound with illustrations of manners and customs; they exhibit in the most authentic way the state of religion, the condition of the various classes of the people and of society in general; they are invaluable to the lexicographer, the genealogist, the topographer, the biographer,—to historical writers of every order and kind. They constitute the most important depository in existence of exact information relating to events and persons of the period to which they relate. But all this information is unavailable. In consequence of the regulations of the office in which these wills are kept. All the books of entry, both of ancient and modern wills, are kept together, and can only be consulted in the same department of the same office, in the same manner and subject to precisely the same restrictions and the same payment. No distinction is made between the fees to be paid by a literary person who wishes to make a few notes from wills perhaps three or four hundred years old, in order to rectify a fact, a name, a date, or to establish the proper place of a descent in a pedigree, or the exact meaning of a doubtful word, and the fees to be paid by a person who wants a copy of a will proved yesterday as evidence of a right to property perhaps to be established in a court of justice. No extract is allowed to be made, not even of a word or a date, except the names of those executors and the date of the will. Printed statements in historical books which refer to wills may not be compared to the wills as entered; even ancient copies of wills handed down for many generations in the families of the testators, may not be examined with the registered wills without paying the office for making new and entire copies. No such restrictions exclude literary inquirers from the British Museum, where there are papers equally valuable. The Public Record Office are also open, either gratuitously or upon payment of easy fees. The Secretary of State for the Home Department grants permission of access to Her Majesty's State Paper Office. Your Grace's predecessor gave the Camden Society free access to the registers of wills at Lambeth—documents exactly similar to those at Doctors Commons. The Prerogative Office is, probably, the only public office in the kingdom which is shut against literary inquirers. The results of such regulations are obvious. The ancient wills at Doctors Commons not being accessible to those to whom alone they are useful, yield scarcely any fees to the office; historical inquirers are discouraged; errors remain uncorrected; statements of facts in historical works are obliged to be left uncertain and incomplete; the researches of the Camden Society and other similar societies are thwarted; and all historical inquirers regard the condition of the Prerogative Office as a great literary grievance.

The anniversary of the Society of Antiquaries was held this year—as our readers are aware—not on the 23rd of April, as usual, but on the 2nd of May—Tuesday last. The business in the morning was chiefly formal; embracing the election of the Council and officers for the coming year—and suggestions for the purpose of rendering the society and its labours more generally and permanently useful. Something was said about an annual *éloge* of deceased members from the President; and such a course may be advantageous on particular occasions—but the practice is very liable, in this as in other countries, to degenerate into indiscriminate laudation. We are glad to learn

that a new, or rather a revised, feature is to be introduced into the proceedings,—several members having undertaken to furnish, not merely antiquarian disquisitions upon ancient stones and relics, but historical and biographical papers. The election of Viscount Mahon as President will, we hope, form an era in the society, the avowed and personal interest which he takes in its affairs being an element of progress which has long been wanting to this body. On Tuesday his Lordship was unanimously re-elected—as were the Treasurer, and Director; and a young and active Secretary was appointed in the person—as we had predicted—of Mr. J. Y. Akerman, to assist Sir Henry Ellis, who has been nearly forty years in his present situation. It is understood that the Bishop of Oxford is to be Vice-President in the room of Mr. Amyot, who retires. Nine new members of the Council were chosen; including the names of the Bishop of Oxford, Lord Braybrooke, Mr. John Bruce, Mr. Croker, Mr. Planché, Mr. Lemon, and Mr. Lott. In the evening the members, according to annual custom, dined at the Freemasons' Tavern, Lord Mahon in the chair. The health of Mr. Emerson, the American poet and essayist—accompanied by the expression of a wish for success to antiquarian studies in America—was received with more enthusiasm than we should have thought belonged to so grave and learned an assembly. Mr. Emerson bore witness to the eagerness with which the productions of the Society of Antiquaries, of the Camden Society, and of the Shakespeare Society especially are read in his native land; and confirmed the story generally current last year, but by many disbelieved, that certain speculative Americans had entertained the project of purchasing and removing Shakespeare's House at Stratford-upon-Avon, had not the joint Committee for its purchase and preservation stepped forward in a manner so timely, liberal, and energetic. No anniversary for many years has passed off with more of spirit and enjoyment.

The annual meeting for the election of council and officers of the Zoological Society for the ensuing year was held on Saturday last in Hanover Square—the Earl of Derby presiding. The report disclosed a flourishing condition of the institution. There have been added to the menagerie no fewer than 226 animals during the past year—and the members now number 1819. The promenade days have been fixed for the 3rd and 24th of June and the 22nd of July—and the military band will be continued on Saturdays from the 27th of May. It was announced that the privileges of the members had been increased since the last meeting by the issue of twenty free admissions to each member on the payment of his subscription:—and in order to diffuse a more general knowledge and taste for science, and to bring the advantages and amusement of the institution within reach of a more enlarged public, the council have determined to admit visitors one day in each week on payment of 6d.—The annual report of the Horticultural Society announces falling off in the profits last year of the exhibitions at the gardens at Chiswick, owing to the unfavourable state of the weather:—notwithstanding which the debt has been reduced.—While on the subject of annual meetings we may mention the fifth anniversary festival of the Governesses' Benevolent Institution. It was there stated that the ladies' committee had during the past year investigated 1,719 applications for temporary relief, and made grants to the amount of 2,245. The amount of stock invested for the purchase of election annuities was upwards of 14,000,—securing annuities for ever for 20 governesses. Nearly 400 ladies had contracted for provident annuities, and had thus been enabled to invest safely upwards of 33,000. At the house in Harley Street in the last two years 200 governesses had found a temporary home. About 2,500 governesses had been registered there since the branch had been commenced in 1845, and 1,250 had been provided with situations without any charge. The asylum was to be erected immediately, the tenders being about to be issued. Many certificates, it was added, had already been given after examination at the College—and classes would shortly be commenced on all the subjects of female education. The society had thus, in five years, produced benefit to 3,500 governesses. The subscriptions announced during the evening amounted to 1,136L.

Mr. had to the School, established a school of 50. proceeded a report, done, or 1,716L. Bank A scholars. The com. empowers the place of expense rail alone. Mr. H. in the fifth It was first at Park on Mr. Hind of the st. distinctly Serpentis was before previous my astro place of in the vivid, with Mr. Bishop magnify a planet atmosphere, may have in a line to the charts and the sun and the stars 25th of A. magnitude 12° 32' retrograde communication at the Obs. even time. The Iris the 64th. Cairns, Royal Bell three years work on this among The Bod. credible are been purchased Vermont, years ram Europe. two thousand hundred on the title graphs and doubt not, election is now which once and that to relating to the ratification. Stephens in the father will not, or broken up it is for some Museum, the history and We have Five Years for the purpose immediate at Mr. Rose is

marbles, who with unerring aim will in a second have deposited the ripe cherry in the mouth of as pertinacious, ugly, yet good-humoured a conveyancer of beef and mutton as it ever fell to the lot of painter to observe or transcribe. With what perfection are the hand and arm bared for the purpose represented—and how complete is the action! The eye has visibly measured the precise amount of impetus which the hand should give to impel the projectile to its destined place. We are made conscious of all this by the consummate mastery with which Mr. Mulready has expressed that nicely of muscular and tendinous definition essential to the purpose. The picture so combines all excellencies that it seems unjust to particularize. Rich in character—in its drawing Mr. Mulready has almost as much surpassed himself as in its colour: and this is saying much of one who year after year has exhibited such mastery. He has not merely made a complete work; he has raised a class of Art—that of the Dutch school—to a point which perhaps it had never before reached. His great triumph is, that out of a naturally vulgar and common incident he has succeeded in evoking refinement and taste. In this view, the picture is one of the most remarkable of our age. Mr. Mulready may be truly said to have ennobled his walk. *A Shepherd Boy and Dog* (130) is a group beautifully executed: and *A Gravel Pit* (125), painted some forty years since, is instructive to the rising race as showing what was the nature of (and how careful was) the study that has attained to such excellence.

Mr. Macrise appears here by one of those incidents of chivalric life (78) in which he is so much at home. The date of his subject is determined by the armour and accessories as that of our eighth Harry. The picture, which is in some respects like the specimen of fresco that obtained applause and employment for the painter at Westminster, is yet greater in scale, with the addition of much new matter. The incident is an old one—which has often found illustration at the hands of painter and poet. A knight, armed for the fight, is about to leave “the lady of his love;” over whose knee is seen, gazing in infantine curiosity at the operations of the armourer and page, the youthful heir of his noble house. A long line of mail-clad knights is issuing, in the distance, from under the gateway of the castle;—and the scene is rich in the presentment of architectural detail. The whole picture is drawn with Mr. Macrise's accustomed precision and knowledge—and is distinguished by that disinclination to chiaroscuro arrangement which marks the painter's style. The portrait of *Mr. John Forster in the character of Kitely* (111) is a picture, both in colour and effect, more complete.

Mr. Herbert has this year again taken his text from Scripture. His subject is *St. John the Baptist reproves Herod* (77) for having married his brother Philip's wife, Herodias—saying, “It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife.” Mr. Herbert has the rare merit of having subordinated all the physical qualities and developments of his art, distinguished as in their several respects they are in his hands, to a high and philosophic aim. The stern reproof of the ascetic preacher is seen to have its full effect on the haughty monarch—while the power of the rebuke is expressed in the most simple yet emphatic posture. The feeling of revenge is well expressed, and the deadly project which it engenders indicated, in the face of Herodias. Mr. Herbert has caught the spirit of his story. The several phases of passion and emotion are rendered in appropriate dramatic situation and action—the very pose of each figure being, as well as the physiognomical character, expressive of the thoughts and feelings by which they are severally inspired. The contrasts while strong are not strained; and the picture is at once full of moral and of pictorial beauty. In the technique of his art Mr. Herbert has shown himself accomplished. Some want of symmetry in the female heads may possibly have been intended by the painter to heighten the effect, as better adapted to their dark designs.

Mr. E. U. Eddis does not shine in his two renderings of *The Sisters* (8 and 18) from ‘Bereavement,’ a poem by the Rev. J. Keble. In the first, where the two children walk side by side, there is some feeling and grace—scarcely enough, however, to elevate it much beyond that sentimentality which for so many years prevailed in the Annuals and other drawing-room books. The second, where

the one is watching over the other's grave, has nothing to justify the prominent position given to it.

One of the newly-elected Academicians, Mr. Cope, comes forward with a picture of *Cardinal Wolsey* (11), painted for His Royal Highness Prince Albert. The arrival of the broken-spirited old prelate at the Abbey of Leicester—so admirably chronicled by Griffith to Queen Catherine in the language of the great word-painter for all time—has inspired Mr. Cope to a performance far surpassing any of his former efforts and nobly justifying his election. The enfeebled condition of the proud churchman who comes to seek a little earth for charity is well expressed. The advantage of operating on a large scale, when considering this picture in a technical sense, will be felt by all who remember Mr. Cope's works before the execution of his fresco at Westminster. The composition here is bold and simple—the story is perspicuously told—the actions are just—the characters are well discriminated—the colour is solid and historic—the light and shade are probable and excellent—and the accessories and costume are just and appropriate, and sobered down to the grave necessities of the scene. Exceptions have been taken to slight discrepancies in the drawing of parts—but we will not indulge in such where so much has been done. Mr. Cope is one of the few who, having travelled and investigated, return to their own country with an improved sense of the resources of their art—and sacrificing no amount of originality, make their studies subserve to the production of a more large and liberal style of thinking and producing.

While on the subject of the high themes supplied to the painter by the pages of Scripture and history, we may remark that Mr. Frank Stone has departed from his customary routine to paint *Christ and the Sisters of Bethany* (485). This new essay involves the necessity of departure from such conditions as have hitherto identified him with a class of particular incident and life—the constant adherence to which subjected him to the imputation of being limited in resource. That imputation his present picture contradicts. Mr. Stone proves here that he has power of simplification. It need no longer be doubtful that he may make his name stand higher than it does as the author of works belonging to a class larger and more universal in its appeal, if he will but read with attention the operations of those who have made art ministrant to high purpose before him. He has refinement and taste. Let him henceforth select a high class of subjects—employ his mind on generalities rather than particulars—avoid the *petitesse* which the employment of the mind on the trivialities of costume and accessory is apt to induce—study the generic rather than the specific—and he will place himself higher than by any amount of such themes as have already made his reputation.

From the hands of Mr. Leslie we have this year an all-attractive contribution. *Lady Jane Grey* (157),

“most gentle, most unfortunate, Crowned but to die; who in her chamber sat, Musing with Plato, though the horn was blown And every ear and every heart was won,

And all in green array were chasing down the sun?”

presents a study of a young lady whose physiognomy, corresponding with the portraits of the unwilling victim of family ambition, justifies the application to it of the lines quoted. It is marked by that sense of character, simplicity of arrangement, and absence of any appearance of picture-making, which are also characteristics of the same artist's other work. *The Shell* (162)—an infant on its mother's knee, listens with wondering delight to the murmuring of a shell which a young and interesting girl holds to his ear. The points of the incident, trite and obvious though they be, were never rendered with more truth or more artlessness. Nature—and Nature alone—has dictated to the painter. Mrs. Carpenter's principal work is *A Lace-Maker* (234)—a study of a girl earnestly engaged at her occupation. With much beauty, it is wholly unaffected and full of truth. One of this artist's most successful works, *Lady Jones* (432), is one of the best matron portraits in the Exhibition—forcible in colour, yet clear. *Portia* (1054), a whole-length figure, shows Mrs. Carpenter's equal power in the management of water-colours as of oils. It is a very graceful study of a lady in green; relying for its effect on its own integrity of form and colour, unassisted by background and accessory.

Since the day when Wilkie discontinued the illustration of scenes of domestic life we have had no one to succeed him in that class until Mr. Webster appeared. In his *Interior, A Rubber* (176), he has taken a high stand—conveying in it proof of the extent and subtlety of his observation. The stolid, may stupid, perplexity of the countryman who, on the left, is puzzled what to lead is full of eloquence—while his partner regards him with the keen apprehension and distrust that denote the sharp proof to follow the mistake which he is sure to make. The happy and confident expression of the study, and sleek old yeoman who anticipates the card about to be led, will finesse with all the certainty which his excellent hand prompts—and the responsive air of his *vis-à-vis*, the youngest of the party, who awaits with security his turn to gain the trick—are all told. In every head and in every gesture may the story be followed with as much clearness as if set down in written definition. To this facility in the relation of a story Mr. Webster adds the qualities which constitute superiority in the Dutch school—but has been betrayed into none of its vulgarity. He has tastefully preserved all the characteristics of humble life. In *The Internal Economy of Dothobys Hall* (135), painted, we hear, expressly for Mr. Dickens—Mr. Webster revels in juvenile character. The sketch is a small one.

Corfe Castle, Dorsetshire (580) is a presentment by Mr. Linton, of one of the grandest and noblest ruins in the kingdom, considering their extent. We are informed that it was built in the tenth century by Italian workmen on the order of King Edgar—and was at times the residence of the West Saxon monarchs. It is further of interest as the scene of the murder of the Martyr Edward by Elfrida; and many other circumstances in history add to this interest—until it was dismantled by the Parliamentarians in 1645-6. These things have inspired Mr. Linton to the production of a grand and solemn effect. The ruins are stately and imposing in their piquetteness; and the contrasts in the rectilinear forms of the castle with those of the flat country or plain and of the horizon, placed so low, which bound it, are the very elements favourable to a striking combination. Mr. Linton has missed no point of his subject. He has in every way made it impressive; and when considered with his scenes on and about the Italian lakes and in Asia Minor, it makes an agreeable diversity and shows the versatility of his talent. *The Boromean Islands*, the *Lago Maggiore* (516), a small picture, is one of the Italian scenes, above hinted at, which on a large scale have given Mr. Linton renown; and the present is a no less satisfactory example on its scale of what he can do than any of the others.

Mr. Pickersgill not only retains his supremacy as a painter of portraiture, but treads in the path of history or poetry—and with more success than usually attends those who habitually devote their time to the mere individualities of nature. A whole-length figure of a lady in an interior is entitled *The Old Oak Chest* (186), and embodies the well-known tale and ballad. Mr. Pickersgill has represented the bride at the moment when, having eluded the pursuit of her husband and friends, she is about to step into the fatal chest whose lid once closed is her passport into eternity. The action is appropriate and just. The head is averted, as if listening to the footsteps of those who are seeking the hapless girl—never to be found; and she seems calculating the precise moment when she shall close the lid, to be hidden for all time from their view. Portraits of *Two Sisters* (93), and (512) *A Young Lady*, exhibit Mr. Pickersgill's improved powers in female portraiture,—the ‘Sisters’ more particularly. As a picture it is eminently successful. It is modest and chaste, while it has force and strength united to delicacy. *The Hon. Robert Clive, M.P.* (156) is one of those equestrian whole-lengths in the painting of which Mr. Pickersgill stands alone. No one knows better the difficulty of such arrangement,—and none so thoroughly masters it. The horse might be a lion beyond the range of portrait painters. The portrait of *Sir James Ross* (366), taken on the eve of the officer's departure to seek for Franklin, is a most faithful transcript. *Henry Beaufoy, Esq. F.R.A.* (304) is a refined and elegant version of a benevolent and liberal person, to whose munificence more than

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one public institution owes so much. *Matthew Farier, Esq., M.P.* (504) may be cited as an original-looking treatment of a head not otherwise particularly remarkable.

Architectural Drawings.

Instead of reformation—which was greatly needed in this department of the Exhibition—revolution seems to have stepped in; oil pictures having encroached upon the territory hitherto allotted to architectural drawings—and a considerable number of the latter being exalted, as a consequence, to “one-shilling gallery” altitude just below the ceiling. The whole of the east end of the room has been usurped by the painters; but they have so managed matters as to cut themselves off from visitors—because the door at that end being closed up, the room is now in a manner isolated, thrown out of the general suite, and will probably be entered by few save those who go expressly in search of architectural subjects. It certainly had an unusually thin attendance on the afternoon of the opening day—a time when we have generally found it crowded. A question which suggests itself is—since innovation on the usual arrangement was to be so freely made, why did it not take a form, in favour of propriety of classification, which would have justified it? Why, for instance, was not Mr. Roberts’s picture of the “Chancel of St. Paul’s, Antwerp”—and, perhaps, one or two other oil pictures also—hung up in the architectural-room, since being in oil is not, it seems, a ground of exclusion, and their subjects are strictly architectural? Mr. Roberts’s is eminently so; therefore, provided a good situation had been afforded it, it could not have been out of place in that atmosphere of architecture—or what should be so. It cannot be derogatory to any painter, however eminent in his own art, to come into the company of another which furnishes his pencil with subjects and sustenance. One reason might, indeed, be given why even architectural pictures of this kind should not be admitted among architectural designs—namely, that they are not designs, but mere architectural portraits, in which the painter’s claim extends only to taste in selection and merit of execution, not to the merit which belongs to invention of the subject. But then such rule should be an invariable and consistent one: whereas we find among the architectural drawings many which are indeed not designs but mere views, tame and uninteresting in themselves, and not claiming to be made exceptions by any ability of execution. This season there is more than a usual proportion of such second-hand productions; and, strange to say, some of them have been suffered to occupy the best places on the walls, while several of the best subjects, and those absolutely requiring to be seen in all their details, are consigned to situations where in this respect they are lost. To say truth, the very spirit of perverseness appears to have presided over the hanging of the drawings. Nothing less than perverseness it surely is to hang such an elaborate Interior as that of the new Coffee Room of the Carlton Club-house over the door and just next the ceiling—and again a small drawing of another highly embellished Interior down just upon the floor—while three such drawings as Nos. 1140, 1143, and 1146, consisting of green trees and a few fragments of old walls, are permitted to occupy a considerable space just upon the line. Many other pieces of mere ruins and rubbish are thrust prominently forward—while things whose titles in the Catalogue cause us to seek them can scarcely be found. This is in every respect bad policy: it shows want of tact on the part of those having charge of such matters—and it cannot, of course, encourage able architects to send designs when they find some of the best compelled to make room for those which are far inferior.

Having understood that more than one long-astounding contributor to the architectural room had this year had his designs rejected, we expected, of course, to find that an unusual number of important and superior designs had been received—and our disappointment is in proportion. In the architectural department there are fewer names of note than ever—and no fresh ones that promise to become such. Another circumstance more remarkable than gratifying is, that there is not a single architectural model this season. On the whole, architecture is now reduced to a position so humiliating at the Academy—there is such evident carelessness in arranging sub-

jects of that class—that dissatisfaction will probably at last express itself openly and loudly. We should like to know under what sort of responsible superintendence architectural drawings are here selected or rejected. To suppose that the Professor of Architecture or any other architect belonging to the Academy has had any share in the management of matters this season would be to accuse them of either want of judgment or dereliction of duty to their professional brethren. We are constrained to conclude that the choosing and disposing of the architectural drawings is left entirely to the painters: a felicitous scheme of arrangement which if adopted at all should be adopted consistently. By the same reasoning which suggested it, the architects should have control over the picture department surrendered up to them. Architecture seems to be regarded by the Academy merely as an expletive and cipher. Those who there represent it constitute a very small minority; yet for that very reason they should be particularly vigilant and active over the exhibitions of their own art. We would rather see it entirely excluded than treated contumeliously,—especially as that might lead to annual exhibitions exclusively of architectural drawings and models. It was not unreasonably to be expected that the establishment of the Institute of British Architects would have had a beneficial influence on the architectural department of the Academy’s Exhibitions, and that the members of the Institute would there have signalized themselves. It is a fact, however, that the display of architectural talent at the Academy has gradually dwindled away since the Institute was formed,—and those who figure at the latter do not so much as attempt to figure at the Academy or in any way assist at its Exhibitions.

Our notice of the drawings shall begin with that which stands second in this division of the Catalogue,—*Design for embellishing the new Coffee Room at the Carlton Club, designed and carried out in encaustic colours*, by F. Sang (No. 1095). We have already called attention to the unpropitious situation in which this subject is placed. It should have been placed upon the line. We might have thought, as a matter of course, if only out of respect to the Academy’s new Associate, Mr. S. Smirke, who is the architect of the building. Where it is, nothing more can be made out from it than the general form and character of the room. We may perceive that it is divided, by segiola columns and pilasters of the Corinthian order, in imitation of *verde antico*, into three compartments, whose ceilings present so many octagonal plafonds, except that the centre one is left open for the admission of light through a lantern over it. Of Mr. Sang’s encaustic decorations and the scheme of embellishment to which the Catalogue calls attention nothing whatever can be distinguished. We would much rather have seen in its place *A design for the interior of a room decorated with illustrations of the Coldstream Guards* (1104), by Mr. H. Shaw; for we cannot say that we greatly admire the somewhat too antiquarian taste displayed in so gothicly bedizened an apartment. Carefully elaborated as the drawing is, it is by no means captivating one,—being both gaudy and gloomy, and having shadows exaggerated into positive blackness. *The Stoke Station now erecting from and under the superintendence of Mr. R. A. Stent* (1112), by Mr. G. Buckler, is an able drawing that deserved to be hung somewhat higher from the floor. As to the design itself, we should scarcely have guessed, without the information in the Catalogue, the nature of the building to which it is applied. It shows like nothing so much as a somewhat plain, red-brick, Elizabethan mansion, with a stone arcade of seven arches, forming a detached composition of the Doric order, in the Italian cinquecento style, having a capacious bay window over the centre. Similar contrasts as regards both style and materials are by no means uncommon in buildings of the period here followed; but though piquant in the originals, incongruities of the kind show only as affectations in modern copies. The degree of affection here betrayed is, however, mild in comparison with the extravagant pitch to which the taste for ultra-medievalism is carried in No. 1278, by Mr. N. J. Cottingham. Sure we are that without the help of the Catalogue no one could possibly suspect this grim-looking piece of antiquity, bristling with pinnacles and abundance of other Gothic trappings, to be *A Design for the intended new Corn*

Exchange, with new Post Office, Savings Bank, &c., Saffron Walden, Essex. It out-Pugins Pugin himself! The idea of dressing up a building intended for such very modern and prosaic purposes as a corn exchange, post office, and savings bank, in mediæval, ecclesiastical, or *quasi ecclesiastical* costume must be admitted to partake of the ridiculous. The design can scarcely look for any admirers except among the bigoted votaries of architectural archaism:—and the drawing is very coarse and rude.

No. 1155, *Design of a Façade for the Cathedral of Sta. Maria del Fiore at Florence; being a Restoration of the Work left by Giotto and destroyed in 1586*,—by Mr. J. W. Papworth,—is a small drawing which, among others, strongly accuses the “hangers” for placing so low down what deserves to have been upon the line. It is one that requires to be closely looked into, and deliberately considered,—yet to attempt to do this is here quite a task. All that we can say of it, after such inspection as we could give, is, that Mr. Papworth appears to us to have succeeded better in his idea for the completion of the edifice than either the Cavaliere Matas or the German architect Herr Müller—who, besides many others, have lately put forth designs for the same purpose.

Nos. 1171, 1187, 1216, 1229, 1233, and 1294 are all competition *Designs for the Army and Navy Club-house*, by different architects; among which No. 1187, by Messrs. Parnell & Smith, is the adopted one—we can scarcely call it the best. We should have been more gratified by finding in place of this drawing some of the designs for the interior,—where we presume lies the superiority attributed to it by the Club. No. 1182 shows *A Sketch for a National Gallery*, by Mr. W. Westmacott—a production that bears on its face too much of the usual “Gold Medal” stamp. It has more of exaggerated display than of originality; being made up of rather threadbare ideas—profuse repetition of columns and statues, with other features that cost very little effort of imagination yet become terribly costly in execution. The whole is, besides, made to appear more ideal than there was occasion for, owing to the building being elevated upon a lofty terrace, accompanied by fountains and flights of steps; wherefore it is not easy for us to imagine what situation could be found for it. The foreground might not improperly have been made to represent clouds as the only site which such a castle-in-the-air fabric is likely to obtain. On the drawing itself is a good deal of writing—intended, perhaps, to appear in the Catalogue—which strongly affirms that the public would not grudge money for an edifice upon such a scale and decked out with unsparring architectural pomp. Just now, however, John Bull is not in the very best mood for contemplating with eager admiration any projects for a new National Gallery. Having put on his *blue spectacles*, he does not see matters of the kind tinged *couleur de rose*.

SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.

In noticing a Collection comprehending 346 productions, the majority of them the works of tried men, it is most unsatisfactory that we cannot record advance. To speak figuratively, the performers are nearly all the same as before, and they play over again the same tunes: here and there with a variation,—but there is nothing new or striking in the entire collection, and nothing which makes such an impression on the mind as the memory, after having quitted the Gallery, loves to linger over. Repetitions of Scottish and Welsh lake and mountain scenery,—the pass, the waterfall—the Sussex Downs, the beach, the forest, the castellated and moated tower are presented after the most approved fashion; and we turn away with a feeling of disappointment, that years of practice on the same strings should not have brought perfection, or even improvement. The exceptions are few. One or two facts may account for the want of increased aggregate strength. Let us take the figure painters, for instance:—there would seem to have been defection in their ranks. As a body, they could largely serve the interests of the establishment:—but where is Mr. John Lewis? From these walls there is no answer. It is years since Mr. Cattermole appeared in this gallery in figures on a large scale; he has now a few contributions,—but small and unimportant, and not such evidences of a talent in its line singular and unapproached as in

former years made always here a *point*. Mr. Hunt has abandoned his figure subjects, and has only a few studies; *astonishing*—that is the word—by his imitations of fruits and flowers and birds'-nests. Mr. Joseph Nash is so fully engaged with lithography that there is but one small drawing here of his. Poor John Wright, the secretary, is just dead. Lake Price has not a figure subject:—and those of Evans of Eton are on a small scale. Mr. Frederick Tayler exhibits the largest drawing here; and he, Cattermole in small subjects, Frapp, and Topham—one of the new members—are the few who can be cited as representing the branch of highest interest at this Exhibition. The accession which this Society has obtained in the transference of their allegiance by three or four of the members of the junior establishment is not striking. They have not come out well on their new ground,—not given proof of great zeal for the interests of the Association which has newly adopted them. As there can be no doubt that they will ultimately prove valuable acquisitions, it is difficult to say how far this hanging back may be a continuance on their part of that coqueting which appears to have taken place between the parties concerned before the admission of these new members into the older body.—In all that illustrates historic or domestic incident the junior Society may be said to bear off the palm.

The President, in excellence as in position, first claims attention. Mr. Copley Fielding has fewer large drawings than usual this year—but is conspicuous in *Mont Blanc from Sallenche, after a Sketch by G. S. Nicholson, Esq.* (No. 162). The subject is one possessing all the elements of a grand combination—the majestic mountain whose summit is covered with eternal snow forming a valuable apex to the whole. The lowness given to the horizon, while it confers altitude on the main feature, makes Mr. Fielding's merit the greater in having expressed between it and the foreground so much of space and distance. This is aided by the variations in the colour; the foreground being one of great richness, and the lofty trees coming in at the left hand corner combining with those scattered about on the right in most useful directions of line and mass. Our credulity is somewhat tested by the strength of tint in the mid-distance. While it does not make the object appear more remote, it disturbs by its excessive blueness the otherwise general harmony of the whole. There are fine forms in the sky, conveyed in elegant tones; and the more vapoury ones as they scud over the mountains give it an air of great reality. *Storm on the Coast of Mull, with a View of Ben-More in the distance; taken from near the Isle of Staffa* (120), is one of those grand effects which Mr. Fielding knows so well how to produce, where wind and water are at strife. The war of elements was never better suggested. The picture is full of movement. A great contrast to this is a nearer *View of Ben-More, in the Isle of Mull; from near Torlorsk* (21)—rich in arrangement and diversity of forms, and in colour almost Titianesque. One of this artist's old subjects—and managed with his accustomed skill—is a *Valley in the Sussex Downs, between Chanttonbury and Asbury Hills, near Worthing* (38). *A View of the Summit of Snowdon, looking up Cwm-y-lan from Nant-Gwynant, Caernarvonshire* (48), is very elegant, but refined almost to feebleness:—*A View of Cader Idris, Merionethshire* (59) rich almost to exuberance.—*Ben-Venue, seen over Loch Katrine, Perthshire* (66) is good—as is also *Dunstaffnage Castle, West Highlands* (67).—There is a fine sunset effect in the little drawing of *Windsor, from the Great Park* (68).—Mr. Fielding has a landscape composition with a sun-set again in No. 80—very brilliant, and with Claude-like effects.—*The View near Buxted, looking over the Weald of Sussex* (105) is brilliant, too:—so is the *Scene near Inveraray, Argyllshire* (132). The view of *Dumbarton Castle, looking down the River Clyde* (174) is lovely in colour—the water true, and the sky serene and admirable in tone. The whole is broad in its effect. Of a like quality is the *View of Dindarra Castle, looking to the Head of Loch Fyne, Argyllshire* (198). A charming little bit is a *View of Ben-Cruachen, looking up Loch Etive, West Highlands* (231):—and *On the Shore, near Sandgate, Kent* (241) is powerful, though very simple. Indeed as regards number and variety Mr. Fielding may be considered strong this year—notwithstanding that he has so small a proportion of large drawings.

The few and small drawings which Mr. Cattermole offers only increase our desire for something of more import from his pencil. There is always a charm in what he does. If he be not a delineator of actualities he is a poet. He has the suggestive faculty strong within him; and this it is that has often carried his generalizations into vagueness. His works this year, however, would seem to indicate that he has now hit the happy medium. In the *Refectory—Grace* (259) he is sufficiently definite; and has attributed to the various personages assembled in the interior the due variety of action and gradation, sentiment and feeling—as expressed in the forms of head and hand and limb and drapery. The proper minutiae are all given with full attention to the requirements of the scene. As regards the expression appropriate to the ceremony in progress this picture is a high manifestation of what Mr. Cattermole can do if he puts himself out. It is also very rich in colour and in masterly handling. In *The Youthful Champion departing to the Combat* (272) the same artist revels in the old time of Chivalry and Romance. A knight is emerging from the gateway of a castle, preceded by herald in tabard and with trumpet, and attended by page and esquire and seneschal,—and turns to pay his parting devise to the “ladye of his love” at her latticed window. Men at arms, yeomen and retainers fill up the scene—and a mendicant-friar on his knees gives the parting Benedicite. The story is told at a glance, and in true Romance language. Another chivalric incident forms the subject of the *Scene from the Story of ‘Sintram’* (331):—“Biorn was sitting at a huge table, with many flagons and glasses before him, and suits of armour ranged on either side of him. It was his daily custom, by way of company, to have the armour of his ancestors with closed visors placed all round the table at which he sat.” The knight, as he sits at the head of his table surrounded by the huge and grim figures indicated by the varied suits, is full of expression. The events of his own life and the deeds of his sires are, apparently, passing through his mind. There is high merit in suggesting with materials so slight so lofty a theme—in which deeds of knightly valour and courtesy are conjured up by an agency so simple. The picture hints, too, at truths of another kind. The fallen figure at the lower end of the festive board indicates that these mighty men with frames of iron were conquerable by influences of the meanest kind. Potations long and deep are hinted at, as a satire, in the overthrown panoply of him who lies doubled up at the margin next the spectator. *The Silent Warning* (317) does not make out its story clearly. The figures, however, are all marked improvements in drawing—more especially the principal one, the girl. The style and bearing of the gallants are given with much spirit. *Landscape* (143) a bold study of castellated remains—and the *Minstrel in Danger* (151) are admirable sketches of architectural construction—Mr. Cattermole’s early knowledge of the scientific principles of which enables him to express them with readiness and truth. *A Water-mill in Kinrossshire* (344) is brilliant in effect.

Mr. Alfred Fripp’s principal drawing here is a *Pilgrim at Clonmacnoise approaching the Altar-site* (193); and a well-intentioned design it is—but not carried out in detail with due attention to nature and to taste. There is careful working—but the care is of execution and detail. The picture is careful in the minute elaboration of heads and hands and feet—but not in the sense of truth in good average form, or in the local colour or shadows of the flesh. The incident is an affecting one—a little girl leading a blind old pilgrim. In the last there has wanted the selection of a better type:—while the head has much expression, it has also much coarseness. The head and hands are insisted on in anatomical detail, of the accuracy of which we are not quite certain—and in such hot and strong shadows as to interfere greatly with the purity of sentiment. While a head or a hand is in truth made up of an infinity of minute parts, both as regards form and colour, yet, when viewed from such a distance as enables the eye to take in the whole, simple lines result from those which, looked at microscopically, appear complex and intricate; and colour, which beheld closely, seems composed of an infinity of tints, becomes a whole mass; seen generally—or what is ordinarily termed flesh.

colour. Its shadows, unless reflected into by some strong red or other coloured drapery illuminated by sunlight or some light nearly as strong, never go much beyond their naturally olive or negative tint. The shadows of the greatest masters are always pure, cool and refined, save under some such adventitious influences as those alluded to. It is a deficiency in this respect which detracts from the otherwise beautifully conceived head of the girl so solicitously conducting the old pilgrim. *A Corner of Ireland* (19) is a bright and sunny exterior of a cabin—but looks unfinished. *A Child of the Mist* (208) shews an Irish peasant-girl crossing over a singularly constructed style. It is most arch in character; but this picture again wants truth in the shadows, and in texture it is slightly overdone. *A Highland Interior* (220)—and *The Old Scotch Wife* (261)—are excellent studies. *A Connemara Girl* (284) shews a peasant carrying home water from a mountain stream: and in *Prayer for the Absent* (311) two girls are on their knees—but before what the mind is left to conjecture. This raises an embarrassment which might have been avoided had the shadow of a cross, or some other object of devotion, been thrown on the ground. Ere leaving Mr. Fripp, let us not forget his clever study of *The Watcher's Duty* (343).

Mr. De Wint established long since a high reputation for originality—which he has maintained season after season. We shall by-and-by advert to some examples of his influence on the styles of others; and will now occupy ourselves in pointing attention to his two oblong views of *Nottingham* (26)—broad and simple and daylight-looking in its effect—and *Lincoln* (147)—the Cathedral and city being seen in the distance. This artist has, also, *Berkhamstead* (89), *Saltwood Castle* (24), and *Lympne Castle* (47),—embodying good notions of those massive military structures. A most masterly rendering is that of *The Vale of Dolwyddelan, Wales* (135). The water is, however, too *maniére* and frittered. In other respects the picture is solid and impressive. A long drawing of *A Barley Field near Dunster, Somersetshire* (309), is truthful:—but in respect of these and many others we need not now repeat our descriptions of Mr. De Wint's pictures. In all are displayed the great and singular power which this artist possesses of producing by very simple means the effect of detail in character and species—whether it be of the movement of cloud or of the accessories of landscape, such as buildings or figures. As has been before observed, he is, for execution, the *Wilson* among water-colour painters.

Mr. Topham, one of the new acquisitions to this Society, has sent two drawings. One (88) is an illustration of Lover's ballad of 'Rory O'More'—"Arrah, Kathleen, my darlint, you've tenzed me enough." In many respects this is an advance on the artist's former works. The group, while arranged with all reference to pictorial agreement, is yet natural and unaffected. The pose of the girl is expressive of her simplicity—the action of her suitor, with ring in hand as he utters the sentiment of the epigraph, full of genuineness and unsophistication. The colour throughout is rich and brilliant—the girl's head refined and handsome. The sunlight effect partially admitted into the cabin reveals in occasional glimpses a picturesque arrangement of the varied objects that constitute its furniture and appointments,—and there is much originality in the style. In *New Capel Cârig, North Wales* (100)—where peasants with a calf are crossing a bridge—Mr. Topham displays his powers as a painter of external nature to great advantage.

FINE-ART GOSSIP.—Mr. Highley has published an anatomical figure, displaying the superficial muscles of the human body, for the use of artists. We need not dwell on the value of a knowledge of human anatomy — more especially of the organs of expression, the muscles—to the artist; nor recommend to him the practice of associating with medical students in the dissection of the human body for the purpose of obtaining such knowledge. But there are some artists so situated that they cannot study anatomy on the body itself—and others who have forgotten much that they had once learnt. To such a well-executed figure of the muscles cannot fail to be of advantage. We have examined carefully the figure published by Mr. Highley, and can vouch for

its general anatomical correctness. The position selected is well calculated to display the superficial muscles of the body—whilst the size of the figure (twenty-six inches in height) permits of the display of every one of importance. The price is moderate and the model is accompanied by a key, with drawings, giving the name of all the muscles represented.

A very interesting collection of pictures by masters of the Dutch School, selected with great judgment by M. Casimir Perrier, was sold yesterday by Messrs. Christie & Manson—on which we shall make some remarks next week. To-day some fine pictures of the Italian school, the property of, and collected during diplomatic residences on the Continent by the Right Hon. Sir Robert Gordon, G.C.B., deceased, will be submitted to public competition—of which also we shall have something to say at the same time.

Arrangements are, we understand, in progress amongst the friends and professors of Art for the formation of an Archaeological Society—organized after the plan of the Camden and other similar societies—for the publication of the ancient literature of Art. We hear also of an intended Exhibition at Liverpool, previous to the usual annual Exhibition in that town—with a view of bringing together the large pictures that have been of late exhibited at Westminster Hall and elsewhere for the comparison

We have received from Mr. Latilla, the writer of the statement respecting the Giotto Frescoes in the Bargello at Florence which appeared in the *Athenaeum* [No. 1052], the following remarks in reference to Mr. Bezzi's letter of reclamation which we abstracted from our Fine-Art Gossip in February last [ante, p. 146].—“With reference to the letter of Mr. Bezzi in the *Athenaeum* of February 5, I beg to state, on the authority of Mr. Kirkup, that he himself first proposed the cleaning of the frescoes to Mr. Berzi, who entered warmly into the subject, and that the trouble in deriving a name for the

and took much trouble in drawing up memorials to the government. This is confirmed by authorities here well acquainted with the particulars,—all agreeing in acknowledging Mr. Kirkup as the first mover, and Mr. Bezzi as the active manager."

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA, COVENT-GARDEN.
First Appearance of

First Appearance of
MADAME RAELINE VIABRIO-GARCIA

MADAME PAULINE VIARDOT-GARCIA.
Madame of the Royal Italian Opera will respectfully invite to a
Noble and Grand Reception, to be held at the Palais, on
Wednesday, PAULINE VIARDOT-GARCIA, will have the honour to make
First Appearance on TUESDAY NEXT, May 9th, on which
day will be performed Bellini's Opera, 'LA SONNAMBULA'.
Madame Pauline Viardot-Garcia; *Teresa*, Madame Bellini;
Mile Corbari; *Rodolfo*, Signor Tauburini; *Alessio*, Signor
Elviro; Signor Mario.
President of the Music, and Conductor, Mr. Costa.
Accompanied by a Divertissement.

GRAND EXTRA NIGHT.

First Appearance of MDLLE. STEFFANONI.
First Night of 'LE NOZZE DI FIGARO'

at the Box-Office of the Theatre, which is open daily
till Five o'clock; and at the principal Libraries
and news-sellers.

Mr. Charles Halle, the eminent Pianiste, who will make his Appearance in England on this occasion.
Mr. Costa.
Concert will commence at One o'clock.
Price of Admissions—Boxes, 4*l.* 4*s.*, 3*l.* 3*s.*, 2*l.* 2*s.*, and 1*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.* ;
Box Stalls, 1*l.* 6*d.* ; Box Stalls, 10*s.* 6*d.* and 5*s.* ; Amphitheatre, 2*s.* 6*d.*
Box Stalls, 5*s.* ; Pit Stalls, 2*s.* 6*d.*
Box, Stalls, 1*s.* 6*d.* may be secured on application at the
Office of the Theatre and at the principal Libraries and
Stationers.

AMATEUR PERFORMANCES AT THE HAYMARKET
THEatre.—TWO AMATEUR PERFORMANCES, by Gentlemen connected with Literature and Art in AID of THE FUND FOR THE RELIEF OF THE POOR, and supported by THE FRIENDS OF PEAKHOUSE, to be always given by some distinguished performers in Literature, and more especially in Dramatic Literature, will take place, by permission of Mr. Webster, at the Haymarket Theatre, on MONDAY, the 13th, and WEDNESDAY, the 17th of May. The profits of which it is the intention of the Committee to apply to the relief of the poor, and the expenses of the performances of the House. On MONDAY, the 13th, will be presented 'THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR,' and 'ANIMAL MAGNETISM.' On WEDNESDAY, the 17th, 'EVERY MAN IN HIS HUMOUR,' and 'LOVE, LAW, AND PHYSIC.' Principal Performers, Mr. George Canning, Mr. George Cramshank, Mr. Charles Dickens and Brothers, Mr. Augustus Coppini, Mr. John Forster, Mr. John Leech, Mr. Mark Lemon, Mr. G. H. Lewes, Mr. Frank Stone, Mr. Topham, and Mrs. Cowden Clarke. Applications for vouchers for Subscriptions Tickets, or for Performance Tickets, may be made at the Office of the Box-Office, or made on and after Saturday, the 9th inst., at the Box-Office of the Theatre; or at the Libraries of Mr. Mitchell, 38 Old Bond-street; Mr. Andrews, 26 New Bond-street; Mr. Hockham, 15 Old Bond-street; Mr. Sami, 1, St. James's-street; and Mr. Mann, Cornhill. The subscribers to the Box-Office will be admitted free, and subject to strict examination. Price of Subscription Tickets, and of admission to both Performances, as follows:—First and Second Tables of Boxes, £1. each; First and Second Rows in the Slips, 10s. each; Pit (the seats numbered throughout, and the stalls removed for the occasion), 10s. each; Extra Tickets for Boxes, limited to Four Persons, 10s. each; Box, 10s. each; Box, 10s. each; Amphitheatre, 10s. Communications, unconnected with the taking of seats, should be addressed to Peter Cunningham, Esq., Treasurer of the London Committee, 2, Madely Villas, Kensington.

ROBERT-HOUDIN.—ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.
The surprising and interesting performances of ROBERT-HOUDIN, (Membre de plusieurs Sociétés Savantes; of the Prince Royal, Paris,) have been received with the most enthusiastic admiration; he will continue his Extraordinary SOIRES ET TASTICHEES, at ST. JAMES'S THEATRE, every TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, and SATURDAY EVENING, at Half past Eight; at Eight; the Entertainment commences at Half-past Eight; terminates before Eleven o'clock. Private Boxes and Stalls, may be secured at the Box-Office of the Theatre; and at Mitchell's Royal Library, 33, Old Bond-street,

WEIPPERT'S SOIRÉES DANSAUTES, PRINCESS'S G
CERT ROOMS.—Last Two Nights—MONDAY, May 8,
MONDAY, May 15, being the Close of the Season and
mination of the present Subscriptions. Single Tickets 7s. &
Weippert's Palace Band as usual, conducted by himself. Mr.
Corrie. The Refreshments and Supper by Mr. Payne,
Drury Lane and Covent Garden Theatres. Commence at Ele-
conclude at Three. Tickets and Programmes at 31, Soho-square.
ON MONDAY, June 5, MR. WEIPPERT'S ANNUAL BE-
FIT BALL.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

Deux Valse pour la Piano, par F. Chopin.—Whereas other more robust pianists announce a concert or see company at Erard's or Broadwood's, by way of acquainting the "Monster London" with the arrival of "themselves and suite,"—M. Chopin, whose extreme fragility of health is, unhappily, historical as the cause of his few and uncertain public appearances, quietly publishes *Two Waltzes*—his sixth fourth opus. Nor must the offering be considered

sixty-fourth work. Nor must the offering be counted as a frivolous one because of its title. These *Waltzes*, it is true, are less developed than the three in A minor, D flat major, and F major (Op. 34); but they have, still, more originality and style than many a heap of notes calling itself *sonata* or *concerto* by a contemporary composer, thinking to claim honour as a classical writer. It is true that one, in D flat major, is dreamy; that the other, in C sharp minor, though more vigorous, is wild and quaint,—both to tally unlike the buoyant and piquant tunes by which Strauss, Lanner, Labitzky, and Gung'l set the world dancing in a *four-in-a-bar* step (so absurd is *Fashion*!). It is true that M. Chopin's notation is by fits, needlessly teasing,—that his harmonies from time to time are such as require his own sliding smooth, delicate finger to "carry off." It is true that old-fashioned steady pianoforte players who have no touch of waywardness, or gipsy wildness, or *insanity*, in their treatment of the instrument, will point to single bars with Mr. Burchell's monosyllables,—utterly unable, moreover, to make anything of the whole. But there is a world of real—as well as of

affected—romance in Art; and though no wise man could confine himself exclusively to this, no liberal one will refuse to enter it in turn. And seeing that nothing stands still, nor is exactly reproduced,—and believing that *romantic* music appears so simultaneously just now in all the countries of Europe as to indicate a desire which *will have* satisfaction,—such individual *reveries*, such delicately-tinted sketches, such melodies near akin to the *Aeolian* harp's caprices, as M. Chopin gives, we must be allowed to possess the general value of artistic significance and consistency, as well as an exquisite charm for particular listeners when in a particular mood. He is distinctly, gracefully, poetically natural; and, therefore, as we long ago said, when there was small idea of his ever coming to England [*Athen.* No. 740], well worth studying in his writings. Those are fortunate who have means of gaining a further insight into the matter, by hearing the composer perform his own compositions.

PHILHARMONIC CONCERTS.—The Philharmonic Directors, in the present dearth of classical musicians, could have done nothing better than offer a commission to Dr. Spohr: since the fantastic folk of the new German and French schools are either too bad or too good to satisfy our audiences—and whereas the best aspirant in "Young England" has a style to seek, the Cassel *Kapellmeister* has established a manner of his own. His eighth Symphony, however, written expressly for London, which opened the concert on Monday, is a production, which, did artists possess self-knowledge, Dr. Spohr would not have sent to England; since there could be small doubt with any one hearing it that it will be seldom, if ever, repeated. The ideas are old, and their treatment is precisely what every one knew beforehand who knows the master's tendency to incessant modulation—the cloying perpetual fulness of his score—and the deficiency of that episodical matter which the Mozarts and Beethovens, even when their first thoughts have been ever so noble, loved to introduce in their compositions. The first *allegro* (after a few unmeaning bars of *adagio*) is in G major , in triple time. The flow of this is varied by a cross accent so pertinaciously repeated that the ear becomes satiated with the provocation. The *poco adagio* in c minor is a dry movement; the *scherzoso allegretto* in a minor , $\frac{2}{3}$ *tempo*, is at best a dreary piece of playfulness,—and it would hardly have been attempted had not Mendelssohn set the pattern. Some of its effect, however, was lost by the timidity, not to say feebleness, of the flute. The *trio* to this *scherzo* is a florid violin *solo*, allotted to Mr. Blagrove, supported by the wind instruments. But the passages are trite—and the accompaniment, besides making an unpleasing mixture of sound, is of a nature to deprive them of their brilliancy. The *finale* is in G major , $\frac{2}{3}$ *tempo*, in its first subject almost identical with the "Carnaval de Venise"—the second melody being forced, and set off in the commonplace rhythmical style of a French opera overture—the best part of the movement being a piece of fugued writing, which, however, taken in conjunction with the rest, has a patchy effect. The Symphony was carefully played, with the temerance and delicacy which Spohr's music demands.

The solo player of the concert was M. Prudent— who produced his *Concerto*. This, as a whole, disappointed us. It is a tiresome work, written without aim—and the *rondo* founded on a theme which is at once puerile and affected. But further hearing of M. Prudent raises him in our estimation as a pianist. His touch is beautiful, rich, and resonant—his power very great—his passages are as “even as strings of pearls,” and his octaves at once loose and decided. As he paid the penalty of playing indifferent music by being heard with indifference, we are all the more bound to dwell on his superior technical merits. The other orchestral pieces were Mozart’s Symphony in E flat (with the minuet *encore*), Cherubini’s overture to ‘*Les Deux Journées*’ (taken too slow), and Beethoven’s overture to ‘*Leonora*’ (*encore*). The last was read and performed in the finest possible manner. The orchestra is now entirely under Signor Costa’s hand, and has been judiciously weeded. The singers were Madame Grisi and Signor Tamburini. Both were cordially received and sang well: but we cannot like long Italian *scenae* and *duetti* at a Philharmonic Concert.

CONCERTS OF CHAMBER MUSIC.—We can notice the third meeting of the *Musical Union* only to mention that Beethoven's glorious Trio in D major was exactly played by Herr Molique, Signor Piatti and M. Billet,—one of the many foreign professors now in London. But there was too much of the miniature in the style of all the three artists. Nothing was ever written more animated than the first and last movements, or more impassioned than the *Andante*: nor (in executing them) can breadth and richness of tone be dispensed with without loss of effect. There is perhaps no chamber composition in existence calling for a combination of higher qualities of mind and of hand united than this *Trio*,—and we are therefore not inconsistent when stating that, the deduction in question made, it has not often been better played in London than on Tuesday.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Signor Labocetta, a tenor, whom the foreign journals have repeatedly mentioned as singing at Marseilles, Berlin, &c. made his bow this day week in 'Il Barbiere.' More engaging than Signor Cuzzani, he seems likely to prove less attractive than Signor Gardoni; being in every respect a tenor on a smaller scale. His voice is not unpleasant in quality; but either it is too delicate for the theatre, or it was impaired by nervousness, or it is already fatigued. Signor Labocetta, however, may have power in reserve; and we trust also perfection—since a more inefficient and inaccurate performance has been rarely ventured by a new candidate than his delivery of the recitations of his part. Signor Beletti sang the music of *Figaro* better than on any former occasion. His voice is certainly a treasure, and he uses it like a man. Mdlle. Crivelli, too, was less extravagant than usual; and Signor Lablache more lavish of *lazzi*, broken English, &c. as *Don Bartolo*, than ever. The vocalists were all liberally applauded: but since this is the lot of every singer, good, bad, or indifferent (with very rare exceptions) who appears at Her Majesty's Theatre, the practice must be discouraging rather than inspiring to the Linds and Lablaches of the company.

The Swedish Lady made her first appearance for the season on Thursday last, in her favourite part of *Amina*, with every sign of unabated popularity. Her Majesty was present—the theatre full—the audience rapturous. But rapture, as we have just now said, goes for little when it is so indiscriminately lavished as in Mr. Lumley's theatre:—and truth is truth. Mdlle. Lind's voice seems to have gained in power, but also to have somewhat coarsened since last year. Her execution, moreover, was more careless than it should be. The chamber scene (in which, by the way, the *soprano* has largely possessed herself of the tenor's part) was sung with too unmilitated *affo*—the *largo* 'Ah non credea' given with a sensible diminution of its former plaintive delicacy, and the *rondo* 'Ah non giunge' more or less out of tune throughout. Let us hope that these changes are but passing ones,—and that the bloom of so fresh and gracious a talent is not already gone. But if Mdlle. Lind is to maintain her high popularity, her future career craves no ordinary sagacity in its shaping. We wait with some curiosity to see in what direction she intends further to extend her repertory during her second season. At present it virtually consists of two operas—'La Sonnambula' and 'La Figlia': since 'Robert,' we apprehend, is beyond the present resources of the management, and 'Norma' is an experiment which it would be unwise to repeat:—while 'I Masnadieri' is laid by *nem. con.*, and the 'Figaro' was merely an average success for its *Susanna*. Mdlle. Lind's 'ways and means' amply fit her to sing the music of *Desdemona*:—but where is the *Otello*? Meanwhile 'La Gazzza' has been talked of, and will possibly be the first novelty.

Madame Cérito and M. St. Leon are come,—and dancing as bravely as usual. But the best of dancers may now come and go without creating any sensation much warmer than that of the Scotchman who received Mrs. Siddons's noble exhibition of her tragic power—with a placid 'That's no bad.' Indeed, the love of the *ballet*,—though from time to time it has broken out among the English, when a Salle, a Heinel, a Mercandotti, or a Taglioni has appeared,—has always in this sober nation of ours been an epidemic rather than a taste; which has ripened and refined itself. Further, let us whisper—that did a Noverre's knowledge and a Blasis's experience sit in every stall, there are for the moment no first-rate dancers extant to gratify the one or to add a treasure to the other—the fascinating Fanny Elssler still excepted!

ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.—What has become of the "cymbal and gong" of Verdi? we cannot help asking, with some entertainment:—recollecting how prejudiced and *perrueque* the *Athenæum* has been thought with regard to a rising genius. Now that singers are come, or coming, these "are heard of no more";—but in their stead, we have in 'La Sonnambula' on the Thursday a Lind, and a Vjardot-Garcia on the Tuesday—a Tadolini, it may be, in the 'Linda' or the 'Lucrezia'—a Persiani in 'Il Barbiere'—an Albini in the 'Tancredi' or 'La Cenerentola.' And the oldest music is, after all, the

freshest. Till we get a new Rossini, we must and shall be faithful to the Rossini we have had!

Graceful and elegant, however, as are the opening and close of 'The Cenerentola';—so much weakness exists in its construction (mainly owing to the arrangement of the libretto) that the opera can hardly be often recurred to save under exceptional circumstances; as, for instance, when a *mezzo-soprano* desires to "go alone"—the number of works available for her display being small. Seeing how theatrical remuneration is apportioned, we can hardly wonder at the desire of every lady to take rank as a *prima donna*: but there is certainly wanting an order of operas in which singers of Mdlle. Albini's class can do so with profit to the treasury as well as to themselves. In such a work as 'Tancredi,' there is the risk of their being eclipsed by the *Amenade*: while the lighter music of 'L'Italiano' and the opera under notice, however admirably executed, loses brilliancy when gone through by a voice, however extended, the strength and real working power of which lie in its middle and lower notes,*—such loss being made more evident by the very secondary and subdued occupation given to the *soprano* parts. These, let us say, were on the present occasion very nicely sung by Mesdames Temple and Bellini—the former proving herself fit for better occupation.

Though the indestructible air of prosperity which belongs to Mdlle. Albini prevents her looking the character of the ill-used youngest sister—her taste in acting and skill in singing it on Tuesday reinstated her in the great popularity gained by her last year. Her voice has for some evenings seemed to us in a state of recovery, and was again rich and powerful. Her expression in such music is always good and natural—and her execution was admirably-fancied, brilliant, and easy. The *encores* were many,—the recalls rapturous. Signor Salvi was the *Prince*, Signor Tamburini the *Dandini*,—one of those characters (*Belcore* in 'L'Elisir' is another) of which he has the monopoly. Signor Rovere's *Don Magnifico*, on the other hand, cannot be looked at and listened to with more than toleration so long as Signor Lablache is in London. And why should not Signor Ronconi have taken the part? He is the only living artist who, in spite of qualities diametrically opposite—but in right of such genius as owns no limit and admits no difficulty—can challenge the great Neapolitan, both in tragedy and in comedy. The *corps* at this theatre is now in full force,—Mdlle. Zolia only being to come. Madame Vjardot-Garcia will appear on Tuesday next in 'La Sonnambula.'

HAYMARKET.—A comedietta, translated from the French by Mr. Bourcicault, and entitled 'Confidence,' was produced on Tuesday. It is a very slight affair—with a social moral, showing how very good it is for married people to place confidence in one another. Mr. Webster as *Mr. Gresham*, the amiable husband, and Mr. Roger as *Mr. Congreve*, the unamiable husband, were fairly matched. There are, besides, two gentlemen with the same christian name, *Mr. Arthur St. Leger* (Mr. Howe), and *Mr. Arthur William* (Mr. H. Vandenhoff)—both pursuing other men's wives. Such are the elements:—but the piece, were it not for the elegance of its dialogue, would scarcely merit attention.

MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC Gossip.—The journals are now filled with anecdotes of poor Donizetti's wonderful fertility as a composer. One forwarded to us by a correspondent is worth giving—like the tale of Paganini stringing his violin with his wife's nerves—as a specimen of exaggeration. The musicians who have been used to admire the Overture to 'Don Giovanni' thrown off over a bowl of

* We may return to this subject again; but for the moments must be left to remind those who may fancy our speculations far-fetched, that the place of a note on the scale and its quality are totally irrespective of each other. Yet, as the two are confounded every day, we will cite one out of a thousand illustrations. For many years of his life, Rubin sang not in the tenor but in the *contre-tenor* scale;—none of his songs lying too low for a real *contralto* voice—such, for instance, as Mrs. Shaw's. Yet, had that lady given the superb *bravura* 'Tiranno, cadrà' from 'Malek Adel' (written expressly to display the extremities of Rubin's voice), as it was written, there is not one listener in ten who would not have conceived the song transposed,—so entirely different must the effect have been.

punch, and the 'Preghiera' in 'Moss' scribbled in a quarter of an hour, must henceforward own that both marvels shrink to nothing compared with the miracle here narrated.

Amongst the long list of Donizetti's operas there is one entitled 'Rosemonte,' which, if credence is to be given to a French journal (*Le Temps*, 24th of September, 1830), was composed under the following extraordinary circumstances. Travelling near Monterosi, Donizetti was taken by four dits; who, discovering who he was, and finding that he had no money, threatened his life if he did not produce the name of which was suggested apparently by the place of his capture, was the result,—and it may thus literally be said to have been written at the point of the sword. It was first executed at Florence by Dupres and Persiani.

Weston-super-Mare.

We have to correct an error in our last weekly notice of Mr. Surman's choral performance. Miss Byers sang the song originally intended for Miss Stewart. The writer left the room before it was given:—and trusting to the advertisement and seeing the performance as by Miss Stewart reported in a contemporary journal, he fell into the mistake.

Some of the morning papers have published a rumour that Mr. F. Beale may possibly succeed to the management of Drury Lane, vacated by M. Jullien.

The *Gazette Musicale* gives the following list of recent German operas and the towns in which they have been performed:—'Leila,' by Mansfield at Hamburg; 'Bianca et Giuseppe' (a most ultramontane title), by Kittel, at Prague,—the composer of which, it is added, was called for fourteen times; 'The Bailli of Berne,' by Conrad (an amateur) at Leipzig; 'Barbarossa,' by Hermann, at Sondershausen; 'Cesario,' by Gollmick, at Düsseldorf.—The monster meeting of singing-societies which was to have taken place at Frankfort this Midsummer (and for which it was Mendelssohn's purpose to have written a *Cantata*, with the *Hermann-Schlacht* for subject) will be postponed till 1849. The musical festival of the Palatinate, however, will be held, it is said, at Kaiserslautern. Schneider's 'Phanavi' and 'Elijah' will be the principal works performed.

From every corner of Europe comes one and the same tale of theatrical ruin. Probably the most renowned contemporary singers were never assembled in one town, with so few exceptions, as at present is London.—Among other musicians who have put into our ports from 'stress of weather,' we may mention Miss Clara Lovelady and M. Jacques Herz—two more pianists! A Hamburg journal, we are told, announces Herr Ernst's last concert prior to his departure for England! This is good news, such as agree with us in holding this artist to be the first of contemporary violinists.

Since we noticed the last of Mozart's newly published Symphonies [ante, p. 420] a casual reference to Mr. Holmes's agreeable 'Life' of the composer has yielded a mention of another Symphony, bearing the date of 1779,—in some respects so closely resembling the composition reviewed (which is dated 1773) that we extract the passage for the benefit of all who have taste for comparison or time for research. The work described by Mr. Holmes, 'consists of eight movements. The trio to the first minut has *obbligato* parts for flute and bassoon, both of which have concerto passages. The fourth movement is a *concertante*, in which all the wind instruments, including the trumpet, are *obbligato* in turn, and have each a cadence. The fifth movement is a *rondo*, in which the two flutes and two oboes are *obbligato*. To this succeeds an *andante* in the form of an *entr'acte*, and then a second minut followed by two trios, of which the second has an *obbligato post-horn*! The amount of dissimilarity and of close resemblance existing between this and the composition recently examined in its arranged form warrants our inquiring how far the one work may, or may not, have been the *risfaccimento* of the other. The most fertile writers have been the least scrupulous in borrowing from themselves no less than from their neighbours, of which the great Handel is a notable instance.... It seems odd, by the way, that in laborious and artistic Germany, so much should be left for the musical antiquarian to settle. With common care, we think the unsatisfactory controversy respecting Mozart's 'Requiem' must have been avoided. Then, a strange number of MS. compositions by Sebastian Bach are perpetually turning up, difficult alike to reject or to

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scribbed with regard to which it is high time that some order should be taken. But by whom? it may be asked. Few amateurs are, in any respect, competent: while the great and classical musicians, all the world over, have too often shown themselves careless and presumptuous in the matter of editorial superintendence,—have been too apt to omit, adapt, correct, or amplify without due reference to, or reverence of, the original text. The one master is gone whose keen intellectual acumen, profound scientific knowledge, and almost preternatural historical memory made his *dictum* on such points as final as any *dictum* can be. We of course allude to Dr. Mendelssohn. It has been already told in this journal (*Athen.* No. 1069, p. 242,) how one of Beethoven's most vaunted singularities was by him resolved and proved to be nothing more nor less than a press error. Nor shall we forget how during his visit to Brunswick, on the occasion of the Festival, we saw him examine a heap of MSS. purporting to be inedited works of the Leipzig Cantor—and his exact and ready citation of the unpublished writings, admitted, doubtful, or spurious. Yet in place of being tempted to presumption, he was so regardless of his author that his editing of 'Israel in Egypt' led to a vigorous controversy with the Council of the *Handel Society*,—each member of which being more competent than he, (!) was also more confident with regard to the corrections, expression-marks, and verbal emendations which should be introduced into what he emphatically called "the good, old, coarse score."—But we are rambling into reminiscence when our object was to illustrate the obstacles to implicit faith caused by the carelessness and presumption of great musicians,—and to recommend among them the establishment of a new code of morals and observances if they desire their own works to be handled down by themselves.

Madame Thillon is again at the *Princess's Theatre*,—as before, neither in the character precisely of a singer nor of an actress, and further by the worthlessness of the pieces in which she chooses to play removed beyond the pale of more elaborate criticism. The Lord Chamberlain has, we understand, indicated the performance of 'Lola Montes' at the Haymarket. It was accordingly withdrawn on Monday evening,—the little drama of 'Who's my Husband?' being substituted.

The readers of Sir Walter Scott's memoirs will not have forgotten the hearty enjoyment which the novelist took in the personation of 'Baillie Nicol Jarvie' by Mr. Mackay when 'Rob Roy' was first produced for the Edinburgh stage,—nor the quaint letter which *Jedediah Cleishbotham* addressed to the actor on the occasion of his benefit, inclosing a 5*l.* note in sign of approval. The Baillie is no more:—Mr. Mackay having the other day retired from the stage, at Edinburgh. On the occasion a testimonial was presented to him; and the Actor, in a valedictory speech, referred with cordial and creditable gratitude to the patronage of the "Great Unknown" as the cause of all his subsequent professional popularity.

MISCELLANEA

Catalogue of MSS. at the British Museum.—As a reader in the Library of the British Museum, and one having constantly to refer to the twenty-four volumes of written catalogues, containing a description of 6,000 MSS. to which an *Index* is said to be in preparation, I beg leave to occupy a small space in your valuable paper with a few remarks respecting the present state and future prospects of the said index, and to render the information conveyed to you by your correspondent, in your Number of the 8th inst., rather more full. Your correspondent states that "sheets B to G of the new Index are actually printed off"; and this at first sight appears calculated to mislead expectant readers,—as may be induced to suppose that these letters allude to the alphabetical contents of the volume, and not, as they

are, to the illustrations or two must be offered. We might mention the ingenious and skilful retouchings of Bach by Mr. Moscheles,—only they are confined to his own MS. copies prepared for his own use. Sir H. R. Bishop's omission of the second parts to several of Handel's songs in *Measur'd Music*'s superb edition comes within the statute. And so we were forward in recommending Miss Masson's *Song for the Classical Vocalist* (*Athen.* No. 1014) to classical singers, dwelling in particular on Ross's stately and impassioned "Ah! rendim," we are bound not to let pass the opportunity of expressing regret and amazement that so good a musician as the *Madame* should have ventured to cut and carve the original at her own caprice. That she has done so is evident on referring to foreign copies laid before us,—nor can the practice be too severely reprobated. With perfect omniscience, there is no guard against corruption or mistake if good faith is to be thus wilfully destroyed.

really do, to the *technical number* given to the sheets. The real state of the matter is this:—The *Index* having been long countenanced by readers was commenced, according to the Parliamentary Return, in the year 1844; and the compilation has been continued yearly, as appears by similar Returns, until the beginning of the year 1847, when it was sent to press. In April, 1848, fifty folio sheets, containing about twenty lines in double columns, embracing the letters A to G only, have been printed off. At this rate the remaining letters will be completed about the year 1852. Two assistants, each enjoying a salary of 22*l.* per annum have been, with slight intermissions, engaged in its formation—the more laborious task of writing and arranging the slips having been performed by *attendants*, and the number of titles has been officially stated as 44,000; I leave it to your more curious and ingenious readers to compute how many titles have been written *per diem*, and the average cost of each to the nation. I am, &c.

May 2.

A CONSTANT READER.

Serbian Literature.—There have lately appeared four works in the Serbian language which deserve mention. These are, the New Testament, translated by Vick St. Karajitsh; a geographical statistical Lexicon for Serbia, by Gavrilovitch; a French-Serbian Dictionary, by Isailovitch; and lastly, the Poems of Branke Raditshevitch. The first and last were printed in Vienna, and the others at Belgrade.—*St. Petersburg Northern Bee.*

Greek Anesthetics.—It seems to me right that I should send you the following, although not myself a professed student of philology or antiquities. A good deal has been already said to show that the moderns have really lost, and lost very lately, the knowledge of the anaesthetic state, or at least the value of producing it artificially during the pain of surgical operations. Still, the fact was to be got in our libraries,—and the Addenda to the *Thesaurus of Stephanus* gives some interesting particulars. But I will only trouble you with one quotation, which is very distinct, and bears also on the meaning of a Greek word. *Philipus Beroldus* gave a few *Annotations Galeni*—comments on the translators and explainers of Galen; amongst other things, in speaking of the *Torpedo*, he says:—"Quod genus piscium, Galenus catenariae Graci scriptores appellant *vapixi*, id interpres inepte nimis vertit in *stuporem*, propterea quod Gracie *vapixi* dicitur *stupor*, unde narcotics dieta medicamenta, quibus utimur in sectione membrorum, quasi *stupore* indutus, ut *extra sensum cruciatus fiat secio*." That is, "The fish called by the Greeks *vapixi* (the torpedo) has been foolishly enough called by Galen's translator *stupor*, because *vapixi* means also *stupor*; whence those drugs are called narcotics which we use in the cutting of limbs, producing stupor so as to perform the operation without pain." By this we see that *vapixi* means the *anaesthetic state*; that it was quite common when Beroldus wrote this, dated 1510; and that he conceives the translator mistook the fish now so well known to us for the peculiar state so lately become familiar.

R. A. S.

Cavendish Street, Manchester.

Caution to Senders of Unpaid Letters.—The following has been issued at the General Post Office by command of the Postmaster-General:—"Under the 3rd & 4th Victoria, c. 96, and the 10th & 11th Victoria, c. 85, all persons sending letters by the post unpaid, which, from any cause whatever, cannot be delivered to the parties for whom they are addressed, are liable to pay the postage charge thereon, which, under the 1st Victoria, c. 36, may be recovered by summary process before a magistrate. In future, such letters being returned, the senders will have to pay the postage charged upon them."

Bulky Idle's Prayer.

BY EBENEZER ELLIOT.

Lord, send us weeks of Sundays,
A saint's day every day,
Shirts gratis, ditto breeches,
No work, and double pay!
Tell Short and Long, they're both short now;
To Slow and Fast, one need allow;
Let Louis Blanc take Ashely's cow,
And Richmond give him hay!

Manchester Examiner.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Sylvanus—Blanco—G. H. C.—F. E.—J. H.—W. C.—received.

We have received a communication from Mr. Manning, one of the authors of "Plus IX."—reviewed in last week's *Athenæum*—complaining of a slight misprint therein, which was observed and has been corrected by ourselves. The printer's error was an accident which did not, as he supposes, affect the comment. Our remark was made upon the right reading. At the same time, Mr. Manning is quite wrong in supposing that we have any intention to dispute the sincerity of his avowed convictions. With his "religious principles" we have no concern—and we never brought them into question. We studiously avoided discussing the "principles" of the work, religious or political. The point before us was a question of literary consistency—and on that we pronounced an opinion. The mixture of two contradictory elements in the authorship seemed to us to produce an entire confusion of purpose, which it was our duty to indicate. We found two hostile ideas side by side, and pointed out the singularity of the conjunction:—and Mr. Manning half admits the validity of our objection when he says, "I fully acknowledge the difficulty as well as the delicacy of the position in which I placed myself in undertaking a work of this nature in conjunction with one of a different creed."

Erratum.—P. 433, col. 2, l. 1, for "above" read alone.

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40		1,000	31 10 0	18 18 0	18 18 0
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